OSWESTRY & BORDER
CHRONICLE
Thursday, November 22, 2012 www.oswestrychronicle.com Price when sold 45p mna media

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TRAGEDY FEARS ON NEW BYPASS

RESIDENTS in a village on the Powys/Shropshire border fear someone will die before changes are made to a new bypass which they claim is dangerous.

People in Four Crosses say the new £6 million bypass is a danger to pedestrians following a number of near-misses since it opened last year, while vehicles coming off the bypass into the village are speeding. Now the Welsh Assembly and Powys County Council say they will monitor speeds in the village in a bid to see what action can be taken.

Sue Hendry, of the Four Crosses Drive Safe Group, said even though she had received backing from Montgomeryshire AM Russell George, she feared there would be a fatal crash before something is changed. She said: "I received messages from Powys County Council and Russell George and the council this week, but I fear it will take a fatality for people to sit up and see how dangerous this road is. I am not letting them forget this issue."

by Andrew Morris

Mrs Hendry said she had been sent a letter from Chris Lloyd, area traffic engineer for the council, which said speed counters would be placed along the B4393, which comes off the bypass, in the near future.

The letter says: "The 30mph speed limit commences at the entry points to the trunk road roundabout off the A483 and continues along Canal Road up to the Courthouse Lane junction, which is why there are no 30mph signs or roundels along Canal Road between the trunk road roundabout and Maesteg farm.

Significant

"The Highway Authority will be putting down traffic speed counters in the near future to determine the actual traffic speeds along the B4393. Once this data has been collected and scrutinised a report will be issued to the community council and the police will be advised if speed is identified as a significant problem."

Meanwhile, Mr George said the Assembly has committed to carry out a speed review of the bypass. He said: "I raised a concern regarding speeding at Four Crosses at First Minister Questions in the Assembly on Tuesday, with the issue being in regard to road safety in the area following the construction of the bypass.

"The First Minister said he was aware of the concerns in the Four Crosses area and he has committed to considering bringing forward a speed review."

Earlier this year, Mrs Hendry received messages from parents concerned that children were running out in front of traffic on the bypass.

She said: "These boys are not only putting their lives in danger, they are also endangering the motorists who are having to brake sharply to avoid running these children over."

Mrs Hendry added that the group has a Facebook page – Four Crosses Drive Safe – for residents to share their worries.

Antarctica challenge for food firm boss

Malcolm Walker

THE MAN who founded Iceland supermarkets in Oswestry 42 years ago this week is marking the anniversary by setting off on a gruelling trek across Antarctica.

Malcolm Walker, who returned as chairman and chief executive of the chain last year, is taking part in a 140-mile trek across the Antarctic ice cap to the South Pole.

He will be raising money for Alzheimer's Research UK and Walking With The Wounded.

Mr Walker said: "It is 42 years to the day since I opened the very first Iceland store in Oswestry, and I'm delighted to be marking the anniversary by setting off on this latest challenge."

Olympic gold medallist Matthew Pinsent and adventurer David Hempleman-Adams are also taking part in the expedition.

Car ban for drink-driver

A LLANSANTFFRAID woman caught over the drink-drive limit while she had an 11-year-old child in the car has been banned from driving for three years.

Lisa Rogers, 47, of Tyddyn, Llansantffraid, appeared at Welshpool Magistrates Court on Tuesday after admitting drink-driving at a previous hearing. She must also do 200 hours unpaid work and pay £85 costs.

Rogers had 60 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath. The legal limit is 35.

Council tax cut to make bills equal

HOUSEHOLDERS in Oswestry will get an unexpected bonus next spring – a four per cent cut in their council tax.

Shropshire Council vowed to equalise council tax across the whole county when it took over from district and borough councils as the unitary authority in 2009 .

But, while many were expecting that tax would rise to match the high costs in the Oswestry and south Shropshire areas, the council has decided to cut bills there. Most areas have annual bills for band D council tax of under £1,500, but in Oswestry it is £1,548 while in Ludlow it rises to £1,570.

Council leader Keith Barrow said the council had pledged not to raise council taxes in 2013 and at a meeting in St Martins on Tuesday he revealed that in Oswestry and south Shropshire bills would tumble.

"We said that we would even out the council tax across the authority. One area should not be paying more than another. People thought we would equalise the council tax upward but we decided to equalise it downwards, which is good news for Oswestry."

He told the Gobowen, Selattyn, Weston Rhyn and St Martins Local Joint Committee that the setting up of the Inspiring Partnerships and Enterprise company within the unitary authority would help the finances of the council.

Christmas-themed night

Carol Roberts from Oswestry Heritage Visitor Centre gets in the mood for a Christmas-themed evening at the centre next Thursday at 7pm. There will be demonstrations of how to make unique gift boxes and door hangings combining natural materials. Tickets cost £5 and will include a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie.

Town plan cost may reach up to £36,000

THE COST of drawing up a new town plan for Oswestry will reach £36,000, town councillors have said.

Oswestry is one of five parishes in Shropshire that has been singled out by the government to develop a community-led plan for others across the county and beyond to follow.

But while another of the five, Kinnerley, has produced a plan with little funding and simply volunteer help, Oswestry is bringing in consultants.

Kinnerley is one of the smaller parishes in Shropshire and volunteers were able to deliver questionnaires about the plan to the almost 700 people in the area.

But those involved say it is a major undertaking.

The plan, a blueprint for the way that the people of Oswestry want to see the town develop and priorities for its future, has to be completed by the end of August next year.

Community action manager for Shropshire Council, Kate Garner, said: "The development of a new town plan for Oswestry is a major undertaking, therefore to mitigate risks and maximise the opportunities that could arise from it external consultants, with a strong track record of undertaking similar pieces of work will be appointed to support the steering group."

Warning on party drug

POLICE in Oswestry, once branded as one of the UK's hotspots for use of the party drug GHB, have warned people not to be tempted to use it over the festive season.

Officers claim they are winning their war against GHB in Oswestry and outlying areas of north Shropshire.

Inspector Rik Klair today said it appeared misuse of the substance had decreased over the last 18 months.

But he warned: "GHB is still being supplied in the area and remains available."

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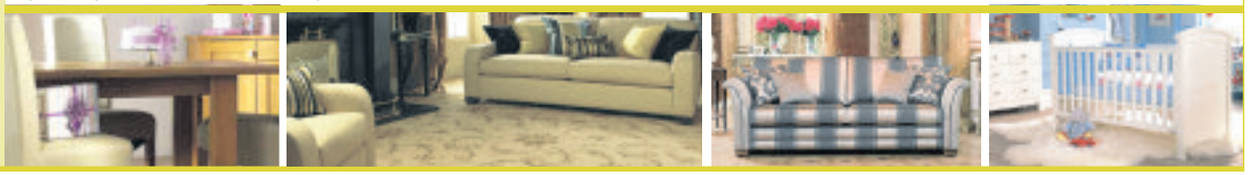

NEWS

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OSWESTRY & BORDER CHRONICLE

14 Salop Road
Oswestry SY11 2NU
Open Monday to Friday 9am-1pm
and 2pm-5pm
www.oswestrychronicle.com

Axe is finally falling on cherry trees in square

by Chrissy Symmons

CHERRY trees which have been facing the axe for the last two years will be removed from a town centre in Shropshire within a month.

An application was sent to Shropshire Council requesting permission to cut down the cherry trees in Oswestry's Festival Square in August 2010.

Protesters started a campaign to save the trees but now officials say there are two which are 'definitely dead' and will be cut down before the first week of December.

Councillor Martin Bennett, town mayor, said a poll had been set up to ask residents what they would like to see in their place.

"We are looking to get rid of two trees in Festival Square," he said. "It is not decided as yet which trees will replace them. There has been a suggestion made for Golden Rain trees. These are Chinese and more robust in urban environment.

Urban

"The two trees in Festival Square are definitely dead and we can't leave dead trees in an urban environment."

There are nine cherry trees in the square in total.

Jools Payne, from PR firm The Jools Payne Partnership, launched the campaign called Save the Red Square Trees. It led to people designing logos and T-shirts and Mrs Payne also organised a tree hug event and a petition.

She said: "It's really sad to learn that the cherry trees will be felled."

She added: "The invitation to the people of Oswestry to have a say in what should replace them is very welcome but I would hate to see a uniform planting of young trees of a proposed species like Golden Rain."

Trust officer is to talk on wildflowers at town hall

THE Oswestry hills, one of the most outstanding wildflower areas of Shropshire, will be the subject of a talk taking place in the town next week.

Fiona Gomersall, Shropshire Wildlife Trust's conservation officer, will talk at the Methodist Church Hall, Castle Street, Oswestry, about the work the trust does in conserving rare species within the Shropshire landscape.

She said nature reserves play a significant part in the conservation of rare species but says the trust is keen to see connections restored between areas of good wildlife habitat between and beyond nature reserves.

She said: "To this end, we work with many landowners to bring about management which encourages grassland plants to flourish."

The event will be held on November 28 at 7.30pm.

It has been arranged by the Oswestry Branch of Shropshire Wildlife Trust.

Entry fees will be £2 for members or £3 for non-members.

Getting taste of life in catering

Back, Chris Niccolls, from Ellesmere, and Michael Billington, of Oswestry. Front, Helena Roberts, of Park Hall, Rebecca Williams, from Queens Head, and David Turner, of Oswestry, on the catering course at Walford and North Shropshire College.

A TEN-WEEK catering course at a college in Shropshire is proving popular with people of all ages and backgrounds.

The Introduction to Employment in the Hospitality Industry course is being held at Walford and North Shropshire College's Oswestry campus.

Among students taking part is a retired military gentleman thinking of starting his own business and a young psychology graduate straight out of university. As part of the course they have to get practical experience and have been working in the catering and hospitality industry two days a week. They then attend college for three days a week.

Michael Billington, 20, from Oswestry, said: "I would definitely recommend it to anyone interested in this line of work."

For more information call Martin Powell on (01939) 262110 or *m.powell@wnsc.ac.uk*

Society prepares for two concerts

WELSHPOOL Choral Society will be performing its annual Christmas concert at two venues in the town.

The society will appear at the Methodist Church in Welshpool at 7.30pm on Sunday and at Pool Quay Church at the earlier time of 3pm on December 2.

This year the choir will be presenting a collection of carols, with narrative and instrumental accompaniment, entitled Joseph's Story. As the title suggests, the programme has been thoughtfully arranged by conductor Beryl Jones to tell the story of Christmas from the perspective of Joseph.

Combining familiar and much-loved carols with Welsh language and modern-style pieces, Joseph's Story will encourage all to enter into the Christmas spirit.

Tickets are priced at £6 for an adult and £3 for a child. Proceeds will be going towards church refurbishments and choir funds.

Tickets will be available on the night. However, if people would like to prebook or would like any more information on either of the concerts, they can contact Johannah Guttridge on 07891 446418.

Friends get pampered

A PAMPER and pudding evening will be held at a school in Montgomery tonight, Thursday.

The event will be at 7pm at Montgomery School.

The fundraising event, which is being organised by the Friends of Montgomery School, includes a range of treatments, including Indian head massage and manicures.

Tickets cost £4. Call (01686) 668301.

£10,000 funding to plan the future

COUNCILLORS in Oswestry have been awarded £10,000 to help them and the community map out the future of the town.

The cash was awarded to Oswestry Town Council this week by Shropshire Council Cabinet to help fund the Oswestry 2020 town plan.

Councillors applied for cash from the Local Joint Committee but six of the town's councillors were on the funding committee so the decision was sent to the cabinet.

Members of the unitary authority have now agreed to award the cash for the initiative.

Kate Garner, from Shropshire Council, said: "It was approved by the cabinet. The £10,000 will go towards the costs of completing Oswestry 2020. Now it has been approved an offer letter will be sent out."

Oswestry town mayor Martin Bennett said: "I am very pleased that the cabinet has agreed to provide the money from the LJC budget. The funding will go into helping to pay for the work already commissioned in terms of the consultation.

"The consultation will be a relatively short, but hopefully intensive, survey of opinions of community groups, business and residents of Oswestry about where they want."

Puddings served at pamper night

A PAMPER and pudding evening will be held at a school in Montgomery tonight, Thursday.

The event will be at 7pm, at Montgomery School.

The fundraising event, which is being organised by the Friends of Montgomery School, includes a range of treatments. Tickets cost £4. Call (01686) 668301.

Campaigners claim line of pylons will ruin countryside

BEAUTIFUL countryside in Shropshire and the Welsh border will be ruined if a high voltage electricity line is allowed to run across it, opponents of the scheme have told a public inquiry.

Power company SP Manweb wants to build a three-line elelctricity line from its substation at Legacy, near Wrexham, to the Oswestry substation to protect supplies.

Company experts say the continuing increase in demand for electricity means the two current lines are struggling to cope.

Engineers speaking at the inquiry last week said problems, particularly in the winter, could cause a blackout for thousands of customers in the Oswestry, Welshpool and Newtown areas.

by Sue Austin

But yesterday a number of those objecting to the proposal for the overhead line spoke out at the inquiry.

They told Government inspector Emyr Jones that they wanted all, or part, of the line to be buried underground.

Ferelith Smith lives in the hamlet of Pont-Y-Blew in the Ceiriog Valley between St Martins and Chirk.

She said: "People who live here, tourists who come to the river to picnic and walk, fishermen and canoeists will all be affected.

Conservation

"This area has several land designations, including special area of conservation, wildlife site of county importance, one point of special interest, ancient semi-natural woodland and a site of special scientific interest along the rivers."

Councillor Jackie Allen, from Chirk Town Council, said the community of Chirk strongly objected to the route of the overhead electricity line.

"This is a part of Chirk designated a special landscape area and as such this wonderful amenity must be preserved," she said.

"At Pont-Y-Blew the River Dee and Ceiriog meet and the area has historic value.

"There is no doubt that the overhead line will cause considerable change to the landscape. We recommend that the line is placed below ground."

St Martins resident Ron Allisonsaid: "We already have two major lines, a minor one and a plethora of local, single and three point overhead supply lines. They are gradually destroying the character and beauty of our parish."

Concern over housing plan behind pub

COUNCILLORS have objected to plans for three houses to be built behind a pub.

Stephen Jennings has asked Shropshire Council for permission to build the homes – one to be rented and two for sale – on land behind the 17th century, Grade II listed Talbot Inn in Ruyton-XI-Towns.

The application was recently altered from the original scheme, in which all three houses would have been sold.

Ruyton-XI-Towns Parish Council held an extraordinary meeting this week, after hearing about the changes. Chairman Councillor Colin Case said 12 members of the public attended the meeting.

He said: "We had a good, healthy debate and there were good points made by both sides. In the end it was four/three against the application. People were worried about the character of the pub. They were also concerned about access to the road."

In a letter to Shropshire Council from Kathy Else, a principal planner, she said the changes meant one of the homes would now be rented to make it affordable.

She added: "A number of members of the parish council raised concerns about the loss of the grassed garden area as an outdoor resource for the pub. However to ensure that an outside area is provided the applicant will improve the existing area directly to the rear for the public house."

Councillor Case said the pub owners had asked for permission to convert its former barn and stable into a holiday home in January. The parish council supported the plan on the condition it was not sold separately.

Festive fun at hall fair

A CHRISTMAS fair will take place in a village on the Shropshire/Wales border.

It will be held in Llansilin Village Hall on Saturday from 10.30am. There will be a number of stalls selling local crafts and food as well as a chance to meet Santa Claus.

Flyers promote festive events

Gemma Syrett-Judd, from Honeysuckle Wholefoods, and Wendy Unwin, from The Gates Gift Shop in Oswestry, with the new Oswestry Christmas Live leaflet

OSWESTRY has so many festive events organised that officials have designed their own flyers to help keep people informed.

It is the first time Oswestry Town Council has produced the leaflet and its members worked with the town's Chamber of Commerce on the project. Now 10,000 have been produced and delivered to shops and tourist information centres across the town. A banner has also been created and put on display in Central car park.

David Clough, town council retail markets and events manager, said: "The leaflets are a summary of all the main things happening in the town over the festive season."

Wendy Unwin, of Gates Gifts in Church Street, said: "It is nice that all the events are spread out this year."

Guerilla gardeners to strike in village

GUERILLA gardeners have got their eyes on a village in Shropshire with plans of sprucing up land there under the cover of darkness.

Designs are already being drawn up to give a facelift to an area of land in Whittington, near Oswestry.

The mystery gardeners, who do not want to reveal their identity, are remaining tight-lipped over where in the village they will swoop, or when.

But residents are being urged to keep watch as one day they may be waking up to a new flower bed or a new piece of green.

Whittington councillor Andy Cawthray said: "I did a presentation for the local joint committee about the concept of guerilla gardening. It is like organic graffiti.

"I have never done any guerilla gardening in my entire life."

He suggested to councillors that if they gave permission for certain areas of land to be gardened this could attract the guerillas to help spruce up the village.

Since the presentation he has had a few phone calls by people interested.

He said he had spoken to some people with plans to carry out the guerilla gardening but gave no details other than that they planned to carry out the work under the cover of darkness.

Free checks on electric blankets

OWNERS of electric blankets are being urged to have them checked at a free testing in Welshpool.

Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service said blankets more than 10 years old pose a significant risk.

The Welshpool event is at the fire station in Severn Road, between 10am and 2pm on December 12.

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NEWS 01691 668094

Hopes new water blend will pass consumers' taste test

THE WATER supplied to thousands of households in Oswestry will be changed in January in an attempt to improve its taste.

Residents in the town have been complaining for a decade about the taste and quality of the water from their taps, claiming it furred up appliances and tasted of chlorine.

But now officials at Severn Trent have agreed to change the supply.

by Graham Breeze

The current supply is made up of a mix of water from the River Severn and groundwater boreholes.

Severn Trent now plans to change that blend over a period of several days, with a proposed start date of January 15, and says there will be a 'more consistent taste and odour'.

The change would see less just 10 per cent of the water coming from the River Severn.

Severn Trent could also work on reducing the chlorine level.

The company will be holding drop-in sessions in the town next month for members of the public to find out more.

A spokesman said: "Today, customers in Oswestry receive a blend of water that is made up of around 50 per cent borehole water, taken from the site in Pentre near Nesscliffe, and 50 per cent from the River Severn, which is treated at our Shelton plant, in Shrewsbury.

"The new blending arrangements are planned to be introduced in the New Year.

They will see Oswestry's water supply being made up of 50 per cent water from Pentre and 40 per cent from Eyton boreholes, with the remainder of the supply being made up from water from Shelton."

Completed

The spokesman added: "We are also putting in place plans to build a new covered reservoir which we hope will be completed in 2014.

"If the planning process is approved and we are able to construct the new covered reservoir, we will also be able to lower chlorine levels even more, which will improve the taste of the water even further."

Councillor Martin Bennett, the mayor, said: "We look forward to trying the new blend of water."

Tolli eyes top prize with snap of cat

Tolli Myers

Tolli Myers' cat Hetty – Waiting For Tea

TOLLI MYERS' photograph of his cat, Hetty, has captured the hearts of judges in a nationwide competition being run by the RSPCA.

The 14-year-old from Llanrhaeadr, near Oswestry, has been named as one of the finalists in the organisation's Young Photographer competition.

His portrait of the former stray is one of 31 photographs from thousands submitted to make the finals.

The mix of images also include cheeky seagulls, a mischievous dog covered in sand and an ant snuggled into a flower petal.

Television presenter and RSPCA vice president Chris Packham, who is on the judging panel, said the winners would be announced on December 14.

He said: "It is always a joy to be involved in this competition and seeing both the young talent and enthusiasm for the animal kingdom shine through."

Tolli's mother, Heather Pennock, said her son had been involved in filming for about four years but only bought his stills camera last year. "The cat, Hetty, was a stray. We won her over but she still lives outside. Tolli called the photograph 'Waiting for Tea'," she added.

The overall winner of the competition will be treated to a specialist three-day wildlife photography break courtesy of Nature's Images, learning expert tips from award-winning wildlife photographer Danny Green.

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NEWS

01691 668094

Commissioner hails win as people power victory

THE MAN elected as Shropshire's first police commissioner has hailed his win as a victory for people power and has handed £20,000 of his salary to charity.

Independent candidate Bill Longmore, of Hanwood, near Shrewsbury, beat Conservative candidate Adrian Blackshaw and Labour's Simon Murphy at the count in Shrewsbury.

by Graham Breeze

"It is a victory for common sense. The people have won because they voted for me and against politics in the police," he said.

Mr Longmore said the money will be put towards establishing a new charity as he celebrated his victory.

"It is a charity for the prevention of crime and to help victims of crime," he said.

Powers

The election was marred by a record low turnout, with just 14.6 per cent of people bothering to vote in West Mercia.

Across Shropshire only 14.35 per cent went to the polls.

Mr Longmore will take up the post from November 22. He will have powers to hire and fire chief constables and set police strategy and budgets.

Mid Wales man Christopher Salmon has been named as Dyfed Powys Police's first Police and Crime Commissioner following a 16.4 per cent turnout.

Mr Salmon, the Conservative candidate from Presteigne, was named Commissioner after an election yesterday which saw an extremely low turnout from voters in the area.

Mr Salmon won against Labour's Christine Gwyther with a majority of 1,114, receiving 32,887 (50.9%) votes, while Ms Gwyther received 31,773 (49.1%).

Mr Salmon, said: "It is a great privilege to be elected as the first Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed Powys.

"I am extremely grateful for the trust people have shown in me.

"We face a number of challenges in the coming years, not least financial challenges, but I am determined we can emerge stronger, leaner and better.

"I look forward to working with the wonderful women and men of the police, the voluntary sector and other parts of government."

At West Felton polling station. From left, presiding officer Linda Williams, Eileen Hanmer and County Councillor Steve Haworth.

Steve early to cast vote in poll for police role

A LEADING Oswestry councillor and former police inspector was one of the first voters for the new police commisioner's role in West Felton last Thursday.

Town councillor Steve Haworth was an earlier riser and emphasised just how important he felt the new the new role was when he spoke to the *Chronicle*.

The former police inspector said: "It is a huge role because commissioners are going to be very influential in how the region is policed.

"The commissioner will have a higher profile.

"In theory decisions could be taken quicker because you are dealing with one person rather than a committee. On the other hand an individual may be swayed easier than a whole committee into making decisions."

The vote was won by independent Bill Longmore from Hanwood near Shrewsbury.

Appeal for group to improve woodlands

CALLS ARE being made to start a new group in Oswestry to help improve the future of some of its woodlands.

Henley Woods has come under the spotlight after town mayor Councillor Martin Bennett visited the area to see how it could be spruced up.

The councillor represents Oswestry East Ward and would like to see a Friends of Henley Woods Group set up to ensure the area and meadowland is looked after.

Earlier this month he spoke to residents to try and get ideas on how to develop it. He said ideas included creating seating areas and planting bulbs to produce colourful flowers during the year.

"We are looking to try and form a Friends of Henley Wood group for the area," he said. "I would like to get it set up as soon as reasonably possible. Community groups have the opportunity to apply for funding."

He said he was now creating a newsletter for residents in the area to see how to take the idea to the next level.

Councillor Bennett said he visited the area on November 10 and met a number of residents who were 'very responsive' when talking about the woods' future.

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NEWS

01691 668094

Fun events for fund

Spotted at Maesydre School in Welshpool were Emma Cresswell, Jake Low and Molly Ryder

Children from Ysgol Ardwyn Playgroup in Welshpool

Jack Hurley, Lily Abram, Jemima Warner and Connie Garvey at Bellan House in Oswestry

From left, Alex Williams, Owen Breeze and Anya Flemmich dressed in spots at Buttington and Trewern School

by Graham Breeze

HUNDREDS of people from the Oswestry and Welshpool areas joined together to dress up, sell cakes, dance and even have their bodies waxed to help raise thousands of pounds for Children in Need.

A host of weird and wonderful events took place across the region as people did their bit.

Youngsters from Weston Rhyn Playgroup, near Oswestry, put on their pyjamas to celebrate the day and also made Pudsey bear masks, got their faces painted and sold biscuits. Students at The Marches School, in Oswestry, raised more than £500 when they held a non-uniform and fancy dress day.

Pupils at St Andrew's Primary School, in Nesscliffe, raised £259 by wearing pyjamas and selling biscuits.

Morris Cook Chartered Accountants, in Oswestry, held a dress down day and everyone made a donation to the cause.

At The Venue, in Park Hall, The New Saints football team players Scott Ruscoe and Greg Draper raised about £100 after being sponsored to have parts of their bodies waxed. Mr Ruscoe, had a back wax and Mr Draper a chest waxed.

The Venue also held a children's colouring competition and a disco. It was expected that the activities that took place would raise about £200 for Children in Need.

In Welshpool, HSBC staff went to work in fancy dress and rode 110 miles on an exercise bike.

Spotty

At the town's Ysgol Maesydre, headteacher Russell Cadwallader, said all children came to school wearing something spotty. And pupils at Buttington & Trewern Primary School also turned up for school wearing something spotty.

Oswestry School's prep school Bellan House held a cake sale in aid of the cause. There were also games stalls run by years five and six pupils and everyone was invited to join in the fun. The pupils also had a visit from Pudsey Bear.

Karen Lentink, head of Bellan House, said: "We all remain very aware of the hardships of children all over the UK and the rest of the world, and so it's fitting that this should be recognised by a donation to Children in Need."

Many pupils, as well as staff members, at Gobowen Primary School were wearing their pyjamas to school.

Pupils who preferred not to wear their nightclothes were allowed to wear non-uniform and paid 50p each.

Youngsters at Weston Rhyn playgroup made Pudsey Bear biscuits while youngsters at Newbridge Day Nursery were selling homemade cakes. Pre-schoolers took part in a colouring competition with the lucky winner offered a free session with Pyjama Drama, creative play for youngsters.

At Ellesmere Primary School children and teachers dressed up in pyjamas and held a cake sale. Staff said everyone enjoyed the day and they expected to raise about £400.

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Call centre staff hail success of TV Children in Need night

Walford and North Shropshire College students took part in a fashion show to raise funds. Back to front are Jade McKay, Jamie-Lee Parton, Megan Mason, Rusne Psenaskaite, Chloe Parry and Billy Turner.

Brother and sister Henry and Saffron Farr enjoying a spotted day at Buttington and Trewern School

TNS player Greg Draper, taking part in a chest wax at The Venue.

Taking part in a Zumba class at Oswestry Leisure Centre in aid of Children In Need is Stewart Huxley, front, with all his ladies.

Bellan House in Oswestry had a games and cake day. Ruby Read and Charlie Early joined the fun.

A BT centre in Shropshire chosen to help the BBC for its Children in Need event has reported the night went smoothly, with Girls Aloud and Leona Lewis boosting call numbers.

by Graham Breeze

Extra people were on duty at the network centre in Oswestry on Friday to help with the charity night.

The centre staff work to ensure the smooth running of phone lines and communications networks 24 hours a day, especially during telethons like Children in Need. On Friday night staff monitored the level of calls across the network to see how it was performing and made sure as many calls as possible were getting through to the show.

Emma Tennant, a spokeswoman for the centre, said: "Everything went extremely smoothly for Children in Need on Friday night from the point of view of BT's network management team in Oswestry. We had a specialist team working to ensure as many pledge calls got through as possible while protecting the rest of the communications network."

She said there were peaks in calls to the pledge line at different times through the evening which she believed was prompted by a particular celebrity or emotive story.

"Performances by the Strictly Come Dancing team as well as Girls Aloud, Susan Boyle and Leona Lewis led to extra calls," she said. "As did a feature about child bullying."

The staff were also prepared for calls ahead of voting for X Factor, Strictly Come Dancing and I'm A Celebrity.

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Think twice over venting views on social networks

BEWARE the land of Twitter and Facebook. It's not the haven of free speech that you might think.

Celebrity Twitters are bracing themselves for a barrage of lawsuits after going 'public' with tweets about Lord McAlpine only to find he had been wrongly accused of being a child molester. He is expected to sue at least 10,000 people over the malicious claims that appeared in the wake of a BBC Newsnight inquiry into a paedophile ring at care homes in North Wales.

And he could hit high-profile tweeters such as Speaker's wife Sally Bercow and comedian Alan Davies who both mentioned the peer on their accounts. The sensational move could involve the largest number of defendants in British legal history.

Too many people think the social media networks are a safe haven where accusations and allegations can be made freely. This week I caught sight of two malicious

BREEZE ABOUT TOWN
with Graham Breeze

Twitter accounts clearly libelling several people from the Oswestry area. The authors run a serious risk of ending up in the same dock as many singled out by Lord McAlpine.

The harsh facts are that we can't go around publishing accusations about others on social network sites and think we will get away with it. When Lord McAlpine starts winning cases – as he will – a lot of other people will be shaking in their shoes.

❑❑❑

AND JUST to emphasise the dangers consider the impact of an innocent tweet by Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies this week.

The Berriew farmer has been forced to defend a tongue-in-cheek tweet about wanting to shoot a stag with a 12-bore after it had wandered into his garden.

He tweeted to his 1,560 followers: "Beautiful antlered stag in the garden, grazing on shrubs border. Oohs of admiration from family. I just wished I still had my 12-bore handy."

Animal welfare groups, the RSPCA and the League Against Cruel Sports, jumped on Mr Davies for his comments, no doubt prompted by a mischievous daily newspaper reporter.

The MP said they had suffered 'a sense of humour bypass'. He claimed not to have shot anything for 40 years and said his tweet was meant as a joke.

Just goes to prove that everyone who publishes today, whether in print or online, must operate under the same guidelines as your local newspaper – and that's not easy to understand for the man in the street.

❑❑❑

THINGS might be tough in the business world at the moment but this week I have seen first hand that Oswestry has more than its share of entrepreneurs.

My first visit to Rednal Industrial Estate just outside the town was a real eye opener. The former airfield was famous during the Second World War as a training base for ace pilots from across Europe but is now a thriving industrial area.

Businesses are springing up as determined individuals battle to survive in times of challenging economic conditions and how encouraging it is to see.

I left the estate feeling that the real way to beat this troubled time is to embrace the entrepreneurial spirit. As one new businessman told me: "I don't make big charges because my overheads are low, I just need to make a living."

Neil steps back into the limelight after tragedy

by Sue Austin

WHEN Neil Kristopher gave up his promising West End career in musical theatre to return to Shropshire after the death of his father he wondered whether he would ever sing again.

He never hesitated in his decision to step in and help his mum Lynne run the family business, the popular Bell pub in Oswestry.

But now the 31-year-old is rebuilding his musical future and fast gaining a following in Shropshire and beyond.

On November 30 he will be singing at Wilsons in Oswestry.

Neil decided to follow his love of performing arts in 2003 when he took up a place at the Mount View Academy in London 2003, the college where stars such as Amanda Holden, Denise Walsh and Connie Fisher trained.

He quickly won parts in college productions and his end-of-college showcase brought interest from agents.

"When I graduated I got auditions and I won a role in Starlight Express, as Rusty's understudy," he said.

Painful

But while rehearsing on the roller skates that the Lloyd Webber musical is famous for, disaster struck.

"I fell during rehearsals and I broke my shoulder. It put me out, not only of the show but also out of the running for other jobs for several months."

A long period of painful recuperation followed.

As he recovered Neil began getting auditions for professional parts once again.

However it was just as he was looking forward to the future tragedy befell the family.

Neil's father, popular licensee, Chris Morris, died.

The family was devastated and he immediately returned to Oswestry to comfort

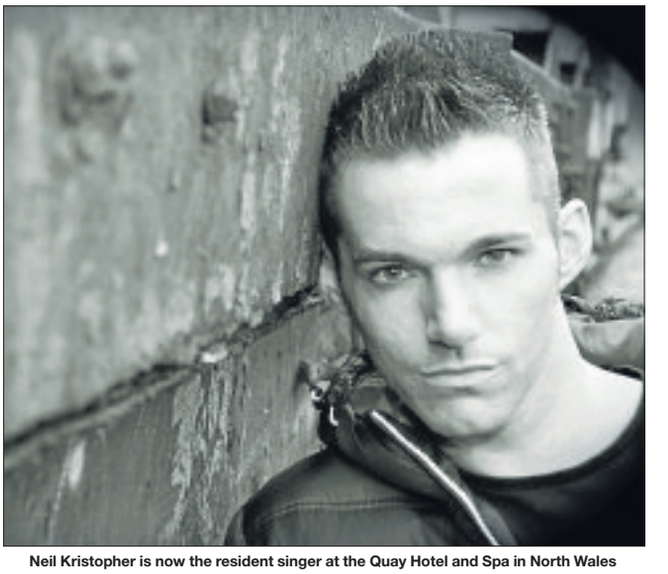
"I decided I would put everything into making a go of singing professionally. I am extending my repertoire all the time."
– Neil Kristopher

mother, Lynne, and help to keep The Bell open.

"My dad was so proud of me," he said.

"He and mum travelled down to London to see my college productions and he was thrilled when I got the part in Starlight Express."

Eventually the family decided to give up the pub and Neil started work at Cruckton Hall in Shropshire, a school for children with autism, a job he still does full time.



Neil Kristopher is now the resident singer at the Quay Hotel and Spa in North Wales

"I wondered whether I would ever sing again and whether I had been right to follow my heart into performing arts."

Restaurant

Encouraged by family and friends he started singing again.

"I decided I would put everything into making a go of singing professionally."

He was asked to perform at private functions and for a Sunday lunch at the Brooks restaurant in Oswestry. And he is now the resident singer at the prestigious Quay Hotel and Spa at Deganwy in North Wales.

"I am extending my repertoire all the time as I had done so much musical theatre and am now doing many more other songs," he said. "It is lovely to be asked to sing something special for a wedding or other event. Recently I learnt the song Dance with my Father for a wedding. The lyrics were very poignant for me."

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Q: I was walking along my local high street on a Monday lunchtime approximately 4 weeks ago to go and get something to eat during my lunch hour when I tripped and fell on a broken paving slab. When I fell to the ground I put out my hands in front of me to break my fall and in doing so I broke my right wrist. I am a secretary and have been unable to work for the last month. Do I have a case against the council? If I do have a case against the council can I reclaim any lost earnings?

A: Council's throughout the country have a duty to regularly inspect, maintain and repair local footpaths. It is for the council to show that they have a reasonable (and effective) inspection regime in place. If the council can not produce evidence that the area where you tripped was inspected regularly and that any defects were spotted and quickly repaired then you may have a case. The first step is to contact a local solicitor who will be able to advice you further on your case (and will likely want to see photographs and measurements of the defect - or obtain their own) and prepare a letter directed to the council giving brief details of your claim and also requesting copies of the relevant inspection records. Once your solicitor has a copy of the relevant inspection records they will be much better placed to advise you on the viability of your case.

If you were successful in pursuing a claim in personal injury against the council you would be able to include a claim for any earnings that you have lost as a direct result of the injury they caused.

Further information relating to this question is available from John Hulme, a Partner with GHP Legal. For information relating to any other legal matter please call GHP Legal on 01691 659194, visit www.ghplegal.co.uk or attend one of our FREE legal diagnostic clinics every Wednesday 12-3pm (no appointment necessary).

Lexcel

LETTERS & NEWS

01691 668094

Funding chances for Mere landscape

BOSSES at a beauty spot in north Shropshire will get a chance to apply for yet more funding to help restore the landscape, it has been revealed.

The Marches Meres and Mosses Nature Reserve, one of the largest in the country, was handed £560,000 by the Government Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when it was named a Nature Improvement Area (NIA) in February.

Now, in addition to that money the Forestry Commission has announced a new scheme which offers grants of up to £4,800 per hectare to further enhance the landscape.

But it is not yet known how much extra money the 13,000 hectare site will be given.

As part of the improvement work trees will be removed and replanted to re-wet the ground, improve water quality and encourage a mixture of habitats.

Bosses at the government department want to encourage landowners to nurture trees and the Forestry Commission has decided to support the scheme because of its importance to the environment.

Ewan Calcott from the Forestry Commission said the site in north Shropshire is one of the areas they will focus on.

He said: "The Meres and Mosses NIA is a really exciting project."

Bathroom fan sparks fire alert

FIRE CREWS were called to a bathroom fire in a house in Shropshire in the early hours of last Thursday morning.

Two crews from Oswestry, one from Ellesmere and an aerial ladder platform and an officer from Shrewsbury attended the blaze at a house in Aston, near Oswestry at 2.46am.

The fire, which had broken out in a bathroom extractor fan, was out on arrival, but crews remained on scene until 3.11am searching the property with a thermal imaging camera. Nobody was injured and only minor damage was caused.

Instruction to sell stores absurd

I REFER to reports of the OFT's decision to force the sale of some of the Harry Tuffin's stores that were sold to the Co-op earlier this year.

There are two comments that we would like to make regarding this article. The first is the inference that we were not confident in the long-term employment of our loyal workforce that we have built over three generations of our family business following the sale of our business to the Mid-counties Co-operative.

The purchasers have a reputation for staff retention, development and continuously growing employment. At no stage during any of our negotiations did the suggestion of any job losses get raised – quite the contrary, the commitment to us was to retain the workforce and continue to grow the business.

The long-term continuity of our shops and protection of the interests of our workforce was a key consideration in our choice of buyer for our business.

Similarly, any suggestion that the sale was 'required' to protect the employment of our workforce is also rebutted. Our business has continued to grow over three generations and was in a healthy, profitable and growing phase at the time of sale.

The recent news that the OFT has issued instructions to sell four stores is, in our opinion, absurd.

Midcounties Co-operative is a good company which we selected as the best opportunity to continue to develop our supermarkets for the benefit of our communities, our staff and many of our local suppliers.

GILROY DELVES MBE and RUBY TUFFIN DELVES
Churchstoke
Montgomery

THIS view of Raven Square, Welshpool, is from a Valentine's series postcard franked on August 15, 1905 or 1906. The Raven pub is on the extreme right. Message was: "Dear Ada, Received your last letter, but I've been so awfully busy had no time to write a letter. I've had a promotion already. I will tell you all about it in my next letter. Sorry you could not get the lace but I have managed without it. How is your mother and Dad? Best love, Minnie." It was posted to Miss Ada Richards, 18 St Lukes Terrace, Headless Cross, Redditch.

Motorists have to give way to other road users

IT COMES as no surprise to me to hear that Bradley Wiggins has been knocked off his bicycle.

Everyone is in such a rush to go about their daily business that little care is shown to others. Comments on the internet in relation to this incident illustrate exactly what I mean.

One clown suggested that bicycles had no place on the fast roads of today – which can only be interpreted as: You are in my way, so move, or I will intimidate you.

Another muppet complained that he found it frustrating he could not overtake cyclists who rode two abreast, blissfully ignoring the fact the he and his passenger were travelling side by side in a car. This comment again suggests 'get out of my way'.

What makes these people think they are so important that they can expect all others to give them free and uninterrupted passage on a public road?

If these motorists do not have the patience and skill to negotiate their way safely with due regard to other road users then it is time for them to hand in their licences and take the bus. The roads will be a lot safer.

JON LAKIN
Shrewsbury

LETTERS to the Editor

POST	FAX	E-MAIL
Readers' Letters, Oswestry Chronicle, Ketley, Telford TF1 5HU	01952 254605	letters@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters

Let's be mature and cut badger numbers

SEVENTY years ago it was quite exciting and a rarity to see a shy badger on a moonlit night; what a tragedy that man's well intentioned interference has aided the badger's burgeoning over population.

Poor Brock, having exhausted his natural food supply, has had to turn to our ground-nesting birds' eggs and chicks and also farm crops such as maize and lambs creepfeeds.

On 'going to bed' our badger friend enters an overcrowded sett, a breeding ground for diseases, tuberculosis for example that through his saliva etc. is infecting cattle with devastating financial result, negating two generations of government-aided efforts to rid the national herd of TB.

For Brock's sake, let us be mature and reduce the badger population to a level where they can thrive healthily on the natural bounty of the countryside.

GEORGE YOUNG, Pant

Assembly thanks us with wind turbines

I WONDER if the good folk of Carmarthenshire realised that when they swung the vote that gave life to the Welsh Assembly they would be rewarded by having 61 large wind generators imposed, undemocratically, on the beautiful Welsh countryside known as the Brechfa Forest?

Indeed, the Welsh Government with its TAN 8 has betrayed people across the whole of Wales, for it is not only the uplands of Carmarthenshire that will be desecrated, but other wondrous and untouched places such as Nant-y-Moch.

People need to realise that windfarms are an absolute scam and play no meaningful part in producing viable electrical energy.

The new 2000MW CCGT Power Station in Pembrokeshire which could easily supply the whole of Wales stands testimony to this. Why build this station if windfarms are the best thing since sliced bread?

To be sure, when at their very best, and with tongue in cheek, these 61 wind generators (assuming 2MW per generator) will produce no more than 122MW, bearing in mind that when there is little, too strong, or no wind, their output will be zilch!

Such is the mindless reasoning that drives this wind business – there is an old saying, "Whom God wishes to destroy, he first drives mad!"

DAVE HASKELL
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Pembs

Vibrant voice thrills fans at theatre

HOW thoroughly entertained the audience was at the Severn Theatre, Shrewsbury, when Charlie Landsborough and his superb band were in concert recently.

His vibrant voice was outstanding and, together with his talent for anecdotes and jokes, it had the theatre crowd spellbound.

It was a real joy to be in the presence of a superstar.

Charlie will be at Oakengates Theatre on Tuesday, March 12, 2013. Don't miss this opportunity to see him.

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For the second year running the RSPB Lake Vyrnwy team will be opening a Christmas shop in the Darwin Centre in Shrewsbury from 10th November until 22nd December.

So come along and see us we have everything from Christmas cards and paper, calendars, bird feeders, binoculars and all sorts of Christmas gift ideas. RSPB membership makes an ideal present for adults or children alike and of course it's a gift that lasts all year.

The RSPB Shop can be found on the ground floor of the Darwin Centre, directly in front of the escalators and to the side of the QVC outlet. We look forward to seeing you there.

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MP defends his 'humorous' tweet about shooting stag

MID WALES MP Glyn Davies has defended a tongue-in-cheek tweet in which he said he wanted to shoot a stag with a 12-bore shotgun.

Mr Davies has been criticised by animal welfare groups since making the comment on Twitter – despite saying he had written it in "good humour". The MP said he wanted to shoot the deer which had made its way into his garden in Berriew, near Welshpool.

He tweeted to his 1,560 followers: "Beautiful antlered stag in the garden, grazing on shrubs border. Oohs of admiration from family. I just wished I still had my 12-bore handy."

Animal welfare groups, The RSPCA and The League Against Cruel Sports, criticised Mr Davies for his comments, but the MP said they had 'a sense of humour bypass'.

by Andrew Morris

Joe Duckworth, a spokesman from the League Against Cruel Sports said: "We worry about the Government's underlying beliefs about the importance of our wildlife. It should be respected."

And a spokeswoman for the RSPCA, added: "It is sad when people can't see the beauty in a wild animal like this and just want to kill it."

Regret

But Mr Davies, MP for Montgomeryshire, said he hadn't shot anything for more than 40 years and said the tweet was written in a humorous tone. He said: "My biggest regret about my comments was that I wouldn't use a 12-bore if I was doing it, I would get a professional to use a proper rifle.

"I think these groups must have suffered a sense of humour bypass. I wrote that tweet in good humour, but it is about a serious problem for the Welshpool area.

"So many deer have escaped from the Powis Castle grounds and that area over the years, that they are taking over woodland. They are beautiful animals to look at but create serious problems and can destroy woodland." He added: "I've had a backlash about the tweet, but I have a thick skin."

About his Twitter use, he said: "I try and keep it humorous and also use it to comment on serious issues. I now think boring is probably best."

Fireman honoured for years of service

Crew manager Bryn Evans

A WELSHPOOL man's 20 years of service in the fire service were recognised at a ceremony at The Liberty Stadium in Swansea.

Crew Manager Bryn Evans received his long service award from Mrs Shan Legge-Bourke, the Lord Lieutenant of Powys, last week after completing 20 years as a retained officer.

"On a personal note I am pleased to have received this award as it mirrors the achievement of my grandfather who also received the long service and good conduct medal," said Mr Evans.

Christmas fair

LEIGHTON School Christmas Fair is being held on Saturday at The Corn Exchange in Welshpool, from 9am to 4pm. The school promises "loads of craft stalls". Entry is free.

Summer may see park open

WELSHPOOL'S new country park could open to the public as early as next summer, the Mayor has revealed.

Last year it was revealed an agreement had been reached to lease a three-acre patch of land behind The Flash and a £45,000 town council investment will create a new open space for the town to enjoy.

And Cllr. John Meredith said work will continue throughout the winter in a bid to be ready for June.

"This will become a real focal point for families to enjoy and a place that brings people together," said Cllr Meredith.

"Powys County Council has started work on an access path between the Flash and the all-weather pitch and further work includes a children's play area and perimeter path.

"This facility is much-needed by Welshpool. There is only really Powis Park providing a large open space. We are hoping it will become a popular area for families as well as for walkers and joggers to exercise in."

It's still a nice day for a stroll!

A WELSHPOOL-BASED walking group has started holding weekly meetings again after a summer break. Severn Valley Strollers meets every Monday, walking through Powis Castle Park. The walkers meet at the Park Lane entrance at the castle grounds at 10.30am, for a stroll around the park which takes around an hour. For more information contact Barbara Burnley on (01938) 570197. Getting ready for the walk despite the weather, were Barbara Pryce and Avril Griffiths.

NEWS in brief

Decorate window for festive contest

BUSINESSES in Welshpool are being urged to decorate their shop windows for the town council's Best Dressed Christmas Window competition.

The council said it is inviting all shops and market stalls in the town to dress their windows on a Christmas theme. A framed certificate will be presented to the winner and runners up.

The judges will make their way around the town, covering all areas of the main streets and passageways, throughout the day on December 10 and the results will be ready by the following day when the certificates will be awarded by the mayor, Councillor John Meredith.

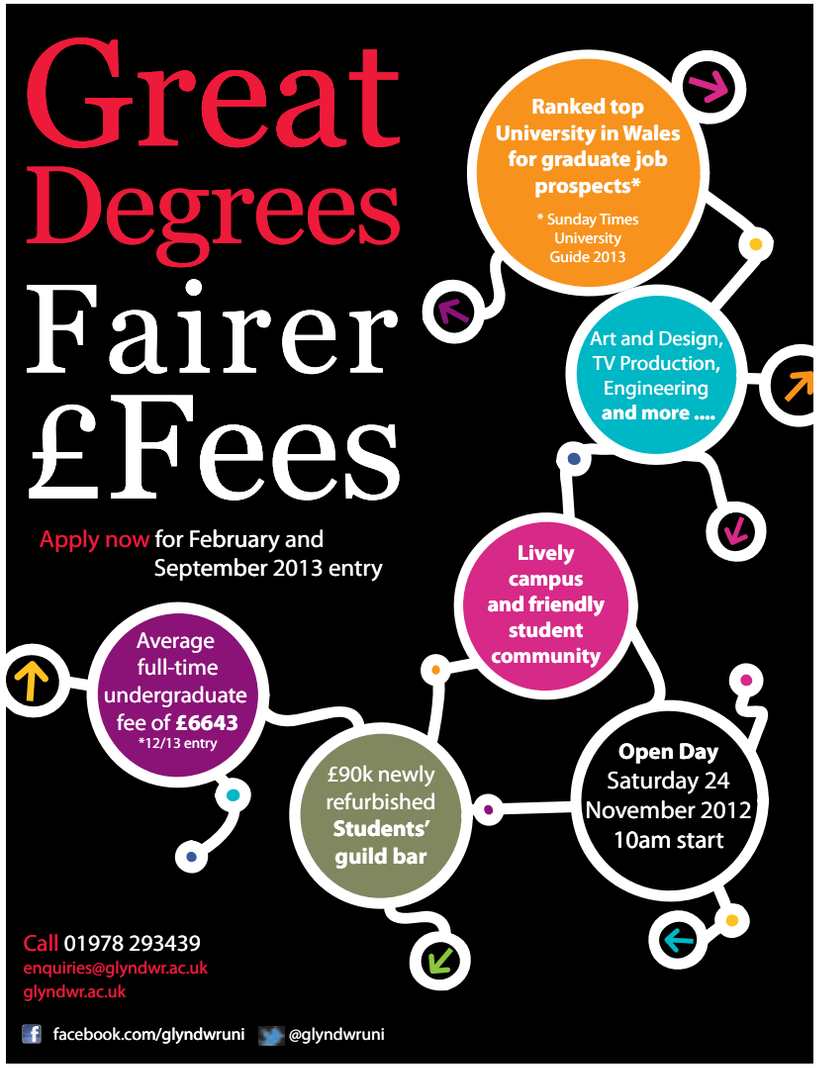
University group arranges meeting

THE next meeting of Welshpool & District University of the Third Age will take place on December 4.

It will be held at Church House, in Church Street. Doors open at 9.45am for a 10.30am start. At a recent event Dr Simon Spencer gave a talk on butterflies.

Tickets for party

TICKETS have gone on sale for a Christmas party with a rock n roll theme to be held at Welshpool Town Hall on December 22. Tickets are £8 in advance.



WELSHPOOL 01691 668094

Olympic torch-bearer is to perform lights honour

by Graham Breeze

FINAL preparations are being made to turn a town into a winter wonderland, with a weekend of fun planned.

Welshpool Town Council will be switching on the town's Christmas lights and then holding a winter festival to get people in the festive spirit.

The lights will be turned on by Olympic torch-bearer and Welshpool High School student Adele Nicoll on November 30, with the festival taking over the town centre a day later.

The Christmas lights switch-on event will start at 6.30pm with a fancy dress competition at the town's tourist information centre in Church Street.

The fancy dress will be open to all ages and the judging will be across three categories – infants up to the age of seven, juniors from seven to 11 years and seniors aged 12 years to adult.

The main event will then start with a parade leaving the tourist information office at 6.50pm led by Newtown Youth Band and ending at the town hall where the lights will be switched on at 7pm. The Corn Exchange at the town hall will have charity stalls where various local groups and charities will be offering a wide range of gifts and crafts, raffles and tombola.

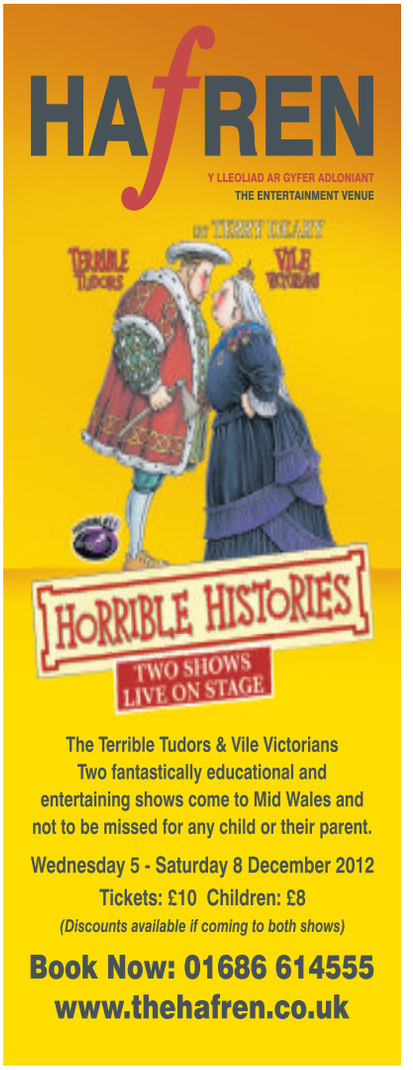
The market village will remain open offering the opportunity for some late night shopping and people can also meet Father Christmas in the market village at 7.15pm free of charge.

The following day, the annual winter festival will take place from 10am to 4pm with many stalls in the main street and in the town hall, street entertainment and more.

A spokesman for the town council said: "The first weekend of December in Welshpool is sure to get everyone in the Christmas spirit."

30 years on the wildside

MONTGOMERYSHIRE Wildlife Trust is celebrating its 30th year with a wildlife event at Theatre Clera in Welshpool on December 19 at 6.30pm. With talks by popular TV presenter and wildlife expert Iolo Williams and environmentalists, tickets are £10. Contact Eley Hart on (01938) 555654 or *eley@montwt.co.uk* or visit *www.montwt.co.uk*



NEWS

01691 668094

Renowned choir is on the lookout for new members

THE WORLD-famous Froncysyllte Male Voice Choir is searching for new singers to join its large group and carry on its legacy.

The choir's fame has stretched far and wide over the years after it released a number of records and featured on television programmes including BBC and ITV.

It has more than 40 members, which includes people from Oswestry, and is now on the lookout for more men to come and strengthen the group.

David Jones, choir chairman, said joining the group could give people a fun hobby as well as a new social life.

by Graham Breeze

"We are having a recruitment drive and we are trying to see if there are any singers in the Oswestry area who can join us," he said.

"It is a brilliant hobby and we have had a brilliant time in the past decade.

"If people in Oswestry want to join one of the best choirs in Wales they should come along. Who knows what's going to happen next with the Froncysyllte choir?

"It is an exciting choir. Our name is out there because of the recordings we have done."

Test

Mr Jones said he was willing to talk to anyone interested and was particularly keen on finding a bass singer.

He said: "People can come along and have a listen and if they think they want to take part then they will have a voice test.

"You don't have to be Pavarotti to join in.

"We want to keep the choir moving on. People are getting older, that is a fact of life. The choir is 65 years old and we still have three of the founder members.

"A choir is not like a pop group, a choir goes on forever."

The choir rehearses every Monday and Thursday between 7pm and 9pm at Acrefair School. near Llangollen.

For more information about joining the choir visit the website at *www.froncoir.com*

Company searches for heroes in business

A SEARCH has been launched for Oswestry's business heroes by a town company.

Cartridge World, the UK's leading printer cartridge specialist, is looking for local business heroes who deserve a special reward to say thank you for their hard work and dedication in tough economic times.

Whether it's someone who started their business from nothing or a long-standing member of the business community, Cartridge World, which has a store in Salop Road in Oswestry wants to hear about them.

The worthy winners will receive a special delivery from Cartridge World – a hamper of goodies worth £50.

It's all part of a campaign to celebrate Cartridge World's new 'We Deliver' service.

Local business heroes can be nominated online at *www.cartridgeworld.co.uk/localhero* by December7.

Silk talk topic

NORTH Shropshire & Borders Smallholders Group will welcome back Fiona Nisbet, a local textile artist, to talk about silk at its next meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday at Llanyblodwel and Porthywaen Hall. Call (01691) 656516.

Good start for jobs project

AN AMBITIOUS project aimed at launching 25 new businesses within 12 months in Oswestry has got off to a promising start despite the economic gloom, civic leaders said this week.

And they said recent talks with estate agents in the town to encourage landlords to bring vacant shops back into use could help meet the challenging target.

Oswestry Business Start Up was launched in October to help people aged under 24 open their own enterprises.

Monthly meetings are being held in the town to encourage budding entrepreneurs to develop their ideas and give them hints on marketing strategies such as branding, pitching and networking.

Oswestry town mayor Councillor Martin Bennett said the start up club was a positive move to help the economy of the area but admitted the ambition of having 25 new ventures in 12 months would be a 'challenging target'.

Expert eye on village valuables

Jeremy Lamond from Halls giving advice at the event

PAINTINGS, pocket watches, silverware and ceramics were all subjected to the keen eye of an antiques expert at a valuation event in Whittington.

The precious items were put forward by villagers to be assessed by television expert Jeremy Lamond from Shropshire-based fine art company Halls.

Mr Lamond was the guest of Whittington Senior Citizens Club and about 60 people took part in the event to raise funds for the senior citizens' hall in Station Road.

Mr Lamond talked about the items, giving an insight into their age and background. Items that took his eye included a piece of Royal Worcester and a pocket watch. But other people had their hopes of owning a valuable heirloom dashed. Rita Moir took along two vases that belonged to her mother.

"Mr Lamond said they were the type of china people would buy to put on their mantelpiece to impress the vicar when he called!" she said, adding: "But it was an interesting afternoon and he made antiques fun."

One-stop shop trial at library monitored

OSWESTRY library has been turned into a one-stop-shop for services as part of a pilot scheme.

Shropshire Council has now been running the initiative, which has brought voluntary and council services together inside the library, for about two months.

Councillor Martin Bennett said today he had been monitoring the situation which has recently had some tweaks made to it.

These tweaks, he said, included repositioning a desk and moving the paper back books section so a seating area could be closer to the hub's desk.

He said: "We have regular meetings with officers about the whole thing and we have been doing some tweaking here and there.

"We are two months into the pilot scheme and it is a six months trial."

The services in the library include some that were previously housed nearby in Castle View and The Citizens Advice Bureau.

An online petition was launched by some residents after it was feared the library could become overcrowded and less quiet as a result of the changes.

Councillor Bennett said he has not received any complaints recently about the way things were going at the library.

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NEWS

01691 668094

Lorry in trouble causes hold-ups

TRAFFIC IN a Shropshire village came to a halt after a broken down lorry blocked a busy junction.

The articulated lorry broke down at the junction outside Whittington Castle last Thursday.

Police spokesman Richard Ewels said: "It had been turning the corner and his airline had gone and he couldn't move the vehicle.

"Another truck gave it some air and it was parked on the side of the road.

"It was reported at 3.25pm outside Whittington Castle on Castle Street."

He said there was initial congestion until it was moved to the side of the road. Motorist Alice Wilding said more than a dozen vehicles were stuck behind the broken down lorry.

She said: "It is a tight corner and a very busy corner right in the middle of the village. It happened at a bad time because it was around picking-up time at the school."

Charity fun run

A CHARITY fun run will be taking place in Oswestry next month. People are invited to take part in the Hope House festive family fun run on December 9 at 11am. Runners will set off from Festival Square. Call (01691) 671671 for details.

Row over site for travellers

A NEW bid to build a travellers' site near a Shropshire golf club has sparked fresh controversy.

Travellers Jerry and Michelle Berry say their new application is 'significantly different' to an unsuccessful bid lodged two years ago to develop the site opposite Henlle Park Golf Club at Gobowen.

But the new bid has attracted further complaints about the development, which was started without planning permission in 2010. The couple's previous bid, which attracted more than 80 objections and was rejected by Shropshire Council, would have seen four chalets and four caravan pitches built.

by Graham Breeze

The Berry family last month submitted a fresh bid for just one mobile home and one touring caravan pitch for the same site, which is a former rubbish tip.

The family lodged the plans after claiming there was a shortage of traveller sites in Shropshire. They say they want to live in the Oswestry area, where they have ties.

But a dozen objections against the fresh plan have already been lodged with Shropshire Council.

Structure

Objector Chris Hodges said: "With such a beautiful structure at Henlle Park Golf Club, the gipsy site is far from adding to the natural surroundings."

Henlle Park Golf Club member Jenny Willett said: "In my view, if you approve the site as a gipsy and traveller site there will be future arguments whether the area has been approved for other travellers."

Objector Terence Price said: "The siting of any so-called travellers' site in the vicinity of the golf club and Lion Quays Hotel will be a blight on the landscape."

Councillor David Lloyd said: "In the light of a previously determined application that was rejected and subsequently confirmed at appeal, one cannot but oppose this.

"The lack of information, precise location and layout is also deplorable."

Shropshire Council hopes to determine the new bid by December 10.

Prison threat over no-show

A 46-YEAR-OLD woman from Oswestry has been told that she faces prison if she fails to show up for unpaid work for a second time.

Juliet Susan Miller, of Castlefields, was given 200 hours of unpaid work for an offence of wounding which happened on July 1 last year. But she was back at Shrewsbury Crown Court on Friday as she had failed to attend a work session on September 17. Judge Robin Onions gave Miller an additional 28 hours of unpaid work – and warned her that she was on her last chance.

He told her: "Your attitude to the victim was one of indifference and now here you are breaching the order. I think you are going to breach again and if you do I'm going to lock you up."

Mr Huw Edwards, for Miller, said his client was a heroin addict. He said on the day of the breach she was waiting for the council to fix a leak in her property and had also gone out to pick up a prescription.

Miller must also pay £72 court costs.

Fundraising is a piece of cake

The Oswestry and District Fairtrade Group held a fundraising morning at the Memorial Hall in Oswestry on Saturday. Wendy Clews and Judith Haslam with some cakes.

Star Tony Robinson to appear at library

POPULAR TV actor and presenter Tony Robinson will be in Oswestry next month to talk about his new children's book series.

The actor, known for his role as Baldrick in Blackadder and as the presenter of Channel 4's Time Team, will be at Oswestry Library on December 4.

Organisers are urging parents to book tickets early as they expect a huge demand to meet the star.

He will be in Oswestry to talk about his new children's book series 'Tony Robinson's Weird World Of Wonders' at a family event from 6.30pm.

Team librarian Heather Rodenhurst said: "We are thrilled to be working with staff at Booka Bookshop to offer this chance to meet Tony Robinson. His books are designed to take children on a headlong gallop through time, pointing out all the most important, strange and gory bits about the Greeks and the British."

Vintage rally

PLANS are already being made for a major summer vintage vehicle rally near Oswestry. Next year's Clwyd Veteran and Vintage Machinery Society's show will be held at Park Hall Showground on June 15 and 16.

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ROYAL OAK WEDDING FAYRE

A warm welcome at Royal Oak bridal fayre

The Royal Oak Hotel in Welshpool

The hotel has completely re-fitted its bar area and changed its suppliers

Advertisement feature

PROSPECTIVE brides and bridegrooms will be heading to the Royal Oak Hotel, in Welshpool, for a wedding fayre on Sunday.

The hotel is staging the event to showcase its facilities and exhibitors will include Wedding Belles at Laura's, Splash Photography, Laburnum House, Lily & Lace and Touch of Class Wedding Cars and many more.

Dominating the centre of the market town of Welshpool, the imposing Royal Oak Hotel is the ideal wedding venue.

The fayre, which is being held throughout the hotel, will offer examples of what the Royal Oak Hotel can offer as well as featuring a wide variety of exhibitors with some 'one-off' items to make your special day truly unique.

It's been a case of 'all change' at The Royal Oak recently with the hotel becoming the headquarters of live music in the town. Artists appear every Friday night and it's completely free to enter, while Sundays have become open-mic nights.

The hotel has staged successful murder, mystery and comedy club nights along with tribute nights for Take That, Tom Jones and Frank Sinatra.

A masquerade ball and more tribute acts are planned for the new year. Pre-Christmas party nights have proved particularly popular this year, while tickets are selling well for the New Year's Eve Party Night with entertainment from local singing star Dai Robs and a disco.

The hotel has now changed its suppliers and completely refitted the bar area to host beers from Matthew Clark Brewers to include draft Becks, Boddington and Stella.

And there is good news for customers with the cost of a pint slashed from £3.20 to £2.95.

For details contact the hotel on 01938 552217 or visit *www.royaloakhotel.info*

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CHRISTMAS SPARKLE

Ditch the dull LBD for glitz and glamour this season

Advertisement feature

DON'T even think about pulling out your trusty LBD this party season.

There's far too much in the way of decadence, glitz and sparkle adorning the rails to resist.

Even the traditional party dress is vying for attention with jaw-dropping maxi gowns, statement suiting and even dress coats that work for dance floors and outdoors.

This season, party-wear is made for anti-wallflowers so don't go for half measures.

"Every woman needs the 'wowzer' dress," says Marios Schwab, Edition designer at Debenhams.

"It's not about trends. It's about what looks interesting and at the same time makes her feel totally gorgeous."

Whether you want to rock some baroque, go mad for metallics or indulge in sequin overdose, 'tis the season to be outrageously OTT.

Exuberance

Stand aside minimalists, excess and exuberance are this season's buzz words.

Return to an era of opulent luxury with Baroque period-inspired pieces that flaunt intricate embroidery, ornate brocade and gilded embellishment.

A lustrous black and gold colourway dominates the Baroque trend making this the ideal update for those who can't give up their LBD habit.

If you want to opt for colour, think flocked fabrics and damask prints in rich jewel tones. The plusher the backdrop the better, so look for crushed velvet or glamorous satin.

This is one trend where over-accessorising is perfectly acceptable so team with regal bling and a statement bag.

Gold, silver, or bronze; now's the time to really celebrate Team GB's medal tally with your favourite metal.

Put the sparkle into Christmas this year

Metallics are the most decadent party colour palette. Because the material is high-gloss, keep the silhouette clean and sleek to really outshine the competition.

Look for sultry matte metallics if you want a sophisticated, grown-up feel.

Separates are having a moment right now, so seek out a dress coat in pewter or gold that doubles up as both a cover-up and a dress when done up.

Metallic cropped trousers will also look red hot teamed with pointy toe heels for their leg lengthening powers.

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NIKKI'S 20 YEARS

Boutique celebrates 20-year anniversary

Advertisement feature

NIKKI'S, a contemporary clothing boutique offering ladies and children's fashion and accessories, is celebrating 20 years in business.

Nikki Stafford-Lawrence opened Nikki's Boutique in Hopkins Passage, Welshpool, in 1992 and expanded into Old Chapel Court in Oswestry in March 2010.

"We stock a wide range of casualwear including versatile separates and jeanswear and dress collections ideal for special Christmas occasion," said Nikki.

"Our collections come from all over Europe and we pride ourselves on the fact we have a limited number of a style so, unlike high street store fashion you are unlikely to see someone else in the same outfit. We stock only one size of each outfit."

Confident

Exclusive fashions from Desigual, Pretty Dress Company, Nwillow, Fransa, Intown, Diego Resiga and Pomodoro are only available from Nikki's in Oswestry and Welshpool.

Nikki said: "We are dedicated to helping our customers find the right outfit for the right occasion, and for you to feel confident in what you are wearing.

"Our aim is to make your shopping experience at Nikki's a great day out, with friendly, helpful and honest advice. If it doesn't look right we will say so."

In 1995 Nikki introduced children's clothing and has exclusive ranges from Spanish designers Mayoral and Girandola, alongside Hatley from Canada. There's also a wide range of accessories on offer.

"I want to say a big thank you to the customers who have supported us over the years," said Nikki. "They keep coming back which means they are happy with the friendly service we are providing.

Nikki has helped raise funds for many causes and this year is supporting Hope House Childrens Hospice by staging a Christmas Fashion and Shopping event at Sweeney Hall Hotel at 7pm on November 27.

Tickets cost £10 with mince pies and mulled wine.

Nikki Stafford-Lawrence from Nikki's Boutiques in Oswestry and Welshpool

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Chicken Liver Parfait, served with slices of toasted baguette

Mains
Traditional Roast Turkey Crown, with pork and caramelised chestnut stuffing
Traditional Roast Beef Dinner, with red wine poached shallots
Pork Loin, with crispy crackling and stewed spiced apple with a cider gravy
Nut Roast, with a red wine and onion sauce
(All of the above served with vegetables)

Sweets
Traditional Christmas Pudding, served with brandy creme anglaise
Cranberry Creme Brulees, with a cinnamon shortbread biscuit
Mince Pies, served with clotted cream or vanilla ice cream
Menu includes Tea & Coffee

2 Courses for £13.95 3 Courses for £19.95
Our Festive Menu is available throughout December including Boxing Day

Food served:
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CHRISTMAS IN LLANGOLLEN

Santa will lead parade as festival gets under way

Llangollen's famous bridge over the River Dee

CHRISTMAS arrives in Llangollen on Saturday with the staging of the annual Christmas Festival.

The festival starts with the arrival of Father Christmas at the railway station before he leads a parade through the streets at 1pm.

The parade will travel through Castle Street into Market Street, East Street and Parade Street and then to the Town Hall where Father Christmas will have his grotto.

Oak Street will be closed from 10am to 6pm for street entertainment, market stalls, music and dancing will take place.

Advertisement feature

Local choirs will be performing on the chapel steps until the Christmas lights are switched on at 5-30pm by pupils from local schools.

Performance

A fireworks display will follow the big switch on and the streets will have face painting, magicians, storytellers, Morris dancing, circus acts, Zumba band and a performance by Llangollen Silver Band.

The Christmas Festival is a community event run and organised by volunteers who have been generous with their time.

All money raised from the event will be going to Hope House Children's Hospice.

Fundraising has been taking place throughout the year, with a sponsored car wash, quiz night and bingo and a sponsored run and swim by John Palmer.

Free parking is available and the town council has thanked the local businesses and people for their continued support.

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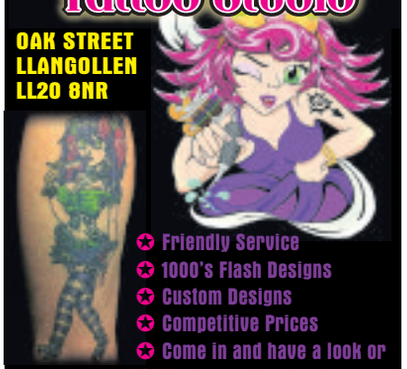

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CHRISTMAS IN LLANGOLLEN

Everything you desire for perfect Christmas

Shopping for Christmas produce at Stans could not be easier

LLANGOLLEN, the festival capital of Wales, is ready to welcome shoppers as the Christmas buying season takes off.

Llangollen is where Wales welcomes the world and it is also the country's festival capital with the Royal Pavilion and its spacious grounds playing host to year-round events.

As well being famous for where singers and dancers congregate from every corner of the earth, it also hosts The Gardening Show, the International Eisteddfodd, the Motorcycle Show, the Food Festival, and a monthly antiques and collectables fair.

Advertisement feature

Llangollen and the Dee Valley has lots of attractions and activities to appeal to nearly everyone throughout the year and there can be few better places to look for a special Christmas gift.

The town's streets are lined with a myriad of independently-owned shops offering just about everything for the Christmas shopper.

Whether you're looking for that special present or simply stocking up the larder to keep seasonal guests happy Llangollen has it all.

More recently Stans Superstore came to town, opening a 3,000sq ft forecourt store.

The new Texaco/Nisa Local branded 'Stans of Llangollen' provides the town and the A5 corridor with a much needed fuel supply and supermarket.

Whether it be the need for fuel, groceries or hot and cold food to go staff at Stans will give Christmas shoppers a hearty welcome.

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Local Produce from Local People

We are passionate about using local produce for our restaurant menu. We also have our own range of jams, pickles and chutneys for sale. We will also be offering local produce for sale in our country larder display. We are looking forward to seeing you, pop in for a coffee, browse our country larder or have a freshly cooked meal.

Sample Menu

Bowl of Conwy Mussels in 'Triple D' Cider from Llandegla & finished with cream £4.95

Leek & Local Abertanant Cheddar Quiche With rocket & tomato salad £4.50 / £7.95

Homemade Rabbit Pie With braised red cabbage & honey roasted parsnips £9.50

Pan Fried Fillet of Chirk Trout With smoked bacon & caper butter with new potatoes £10.50

Traditional Braised Ox Tail With horseradish mash £9.95

'Posh Breakfast!' Home Farm bacon, black & white pudding, poached quail egg, lava bread & brown sauce £6.95

A selection of local producers we are supporting:
• Home Farm, Erbistock • Chirk Trout Farm & Smokery, Chirk • Ellesmere Fruit & Veg, Ellesmere • Stonehouse Brewery, Oswestry • Shropshire Cheese Company, Oswestry
If you are a local, registered producer, please do not hesitate to get in touch, we would love to hear from you!

10% OFF your total bill with this advert

Opening Times:
Food Served Tuesday-Saturday 12 noon-9.00 pm, Sunday 12 noon-6.00 pm
Knolton, Overton-on-Dee, Nr. Wrexham LL13 0LE
Telephone: 01978 710743
thetrottingmare@yahoo.co.uk

CHRISTMAS

Santa arrives early with a special visit to Erddig

Advertisement feature

SANTA and his reindeers paid an early visit to Erddig Hall on Tuesday, ahead of the Christmas Weekends to meet children from Hope House Children's Hospice.

Staff and volunteers pulled out all the stops to give the VIP guests and their families a trip to treasure.

Property manager Jamie Watson said: "Hope House does incredible work and all our staff and volunteers wanted to give these wonderful children the best experience we can.

"Erddig is a house full of memories and stories and I hope this special visit has created many more for the children and their families."

Hope House Children's Hospice provides specialist nursing care and support to life-limited children, young people and young adults from Shropshire, Cheshire, North and Mid Wales.

You can experience the excitement and unique atmosphere of a traditional Christmas market and the Father Christmas Winter Wonderland set within the outbuildings of Erddig.

Tempted

On the weekends of November 24 and 25, December 1 and 2, December 8 and 9 and December 15 and 16 you will be able to wander through the Christmas village with approximately 50 picturesque wooden cabins and stalls selling hand crafted gifts including jewellery, ceramics, clothes, toys, leather work, glass ware and decorations.

You could be tempted with hot mulled wine, roasted chestnuts, pastries, sausages, waffles and chocolates.

You could visit Father Christmas in the ice palace grotto (tickets for Santa £5) and also see the toy workshop with the elves busily making and wrapping presents warmed by a roaring log fire.

Santa will be arriving at 11.30am on Saturday to open his grotto.

You could also see inside the kitchens of the house with the staff preparing for Christmas.

Santa in his grotto is a big attraction at Erddig

The Christmas market at Erddig

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A Warm Welcome Awaits everyone...

Christmas Fayre Menu 3 Courses for £15.00

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH
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3 courses
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CHRISTMAS

Something to suit everyone at Vaults

Paul Fitton and Julie Gibson at The Vaults Pub in Oswestry

Advertisement feature

PAUL Fitton and Julie Gibson are both looking forward to their first Christmas at the Vaults in Oswestry.

With a full range of Offa's Dyke brews, plus seasonal guest ales, there's something to suit everyone's taste-buds.

The Vaults is fast emerging as the place to be for live music in Oswestry with the final outside event of the year lined up.

Rudolph's Revenge Festival takes place in the Vaults gardens on December 7 with a line-up of seven bands with headline act "Limited Series" starting from 6.30pm. A DJ will be inside on the night too.

Opening

More events for your calendar include two great bands performing – "Funk Weasel" on November 30 and "Jed Is Dead" on December 14. These will be followed by a DJ.

The Vaults will be opening Christmas Eve, noon till 1am, Christmas Day, 11.30am till 2pm, Boxing Day noon till 2am, New Year's Eve noon till 3am and New Year's Day noon till 1am.

All of these events are free to enter and thepub will have DJs on each night except Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

"We look forward to seeing all our customers new and old over the Christmas period," said Julie.

Paul and Julie would like to wish all their customers a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

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RUDOLPHS REVENGE
6PM – 11PM
FRI DEC 7TH 2012
OLD VAULTS GARDEN STAGE OSWESTRY
FREE ENTRY
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Christmas Opening Times
Christmas Eve 12 till 1am Christmas Day 11.30am till 2pm
Boxing Day 12 till 2am New Year's Eve 12 till 3am New Year's Day 12 till 1am
Paul & Julie wish you a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
Ye Olde Vaults 14 Church Street, Oswestry, SY11 2SU

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Free entry to our prize draw...
Join our Club in December and you'll be in with a chance of winning some fantastic prizes – Mountain Bike, Spa Day Pamper, 10 Personal Training Sessions – wow!! Exclusive to new members. Existing members can also be in with a chance of winning, simply 'Refer a Friend' and you'll be entered too!
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Nine-bed period residence set in glorious countryside

Pentrecoed Farm, near Dudleston Heath, Ellesmere, is an imposing Georgian residence with surrounding grounds, a one-acre paddock, pond and outbuildings. The nine-bedroom property is on the market with Woodhead Estates for offers around £649,950.

It has an entrance hall, lounge, music room, cellar, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, storage rooms, utility, sun room, nine bedrooms, one ensuite, two shower rooms, two bathrooms, driveway, stable and pigeon house/outbuilding.

In further detail the entrance hall has a quarry tiled floor. The lounge has a solid oak floor and open fireplace, while the music room also has a fireplace.

The cellar has a trap door up to the sun room, and the dining room features an original inglenook fireplace.

The kitchen/breakfast room includes a double oven with hob, plus a Rayburn cooking range with original bread oven in an alcove.

There is also an inner hall leading to the downstairs wc and a side entrance to a working well.

Nearby are the utility room and sun room, with pleasant views of the rear garden.

On the first floor can be found bedroom three with ensuite, bedrooms one and two and a shower room. Off an inner landing is a bathroom, bedrooms six/studio, seven and eight (with a staircase to the second floor), a shower room and bedroom nine. On the second floor are bedrooms four and five and a bathroom.

For further information contact Woodhead Estates on 01691 680044 or visit www.woodheadestates.com

Roomy home to rent in a popular village

Cobblers Cottage, Church Street, Ruyton-XI-Towns, is a spacious period family home with a private garden and off-road parking.

The three-bedroom property is available to rent through Berrys at £695 pcm.

Along with gas-fired central heating and double glazing it has a conservatory, cloakroom, kitchen, dining room, sitting room, three bedrooms and a bathroom. Unfurnished, it comes with carpets, an electric oven/hob and fridge.

For further information contact Berrys on 01743 271697 or visit www.berrybros.com

Smart bungalow on sale with no chain

A three-bedroom detached bungalow on a modern retirement estate in Oswestry is on the market with JJ Dell for £164,950 with no chain.

Number 19 Ambleside Road is close to the town centre and includes gas-fired central heating.

It has an entrance hall, cloakroom, lounge/dining room and a modern fitted kitchen. An inner hall leads to three bedrooms and a bathroom.

The property has a drive, detached single garage, front lawn and rear garden with a patio and lawn.

For more information contact JJ Dell on 01691 653437 or visit www.jjdell.co.uk

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£395pcm

- 2 Bedroom Mid Terrace House
- Close to village amenities
- Sitting Room, Kitchen, Bathroom
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182 Cabin Lane, Oswestry

£460

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- Sitting Room, Kitchen, Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating, Double Glazed
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- Available Now

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£250pcm

- First Floor Flat in Village Centre
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen Area
- 1 Bedroom, Shower Room
- Economy 7 Heating, Recently Re-Decorated
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28 Aston Close, Oswestry

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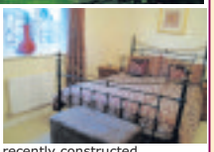

An immaculate three bedroom detached house located on this recently constructed development . The property has two Reception Rooms, Conservatory, Kitchen, Utility, Ensuite shower room to the master bedroom. Externally the property has easily maintained gardens, off road parking and a Garage.

£164,995

OSWESTRY

- An immaculate 2 bedroom house
- On a popular sought after development within walking distance to town centre
- 2 double bedrooms, enclosed private courtyard
- Parking for two vehicles

£145,000

PENYBONTFAWR

- Three bedroom detached bungalow
- Lounge, Kitchen, Utility/W.c
- Oil heating, Carport
- Overlooking fields and hillside
- Viewing recommended.

£179,995

OSWESTRY

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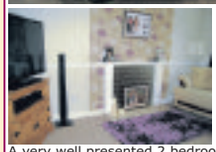
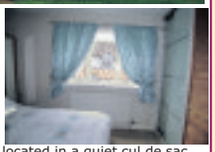




A very well presented 2 bedroom semi detached property and located in a quiet cul de sac position. The property benefits from ample parking with driveway for approximately 4 cars and a good sized rear garden. Having two bedrooms, bathroom, Lounge, and breakfast kitchen. The property must be viewed to be appreciated.

£119,995

ELLESMERE

Samuel Wood are delighted to offer this 5 bedroomed Period Residence offering versatile spacious family accommodation. The property is believed to date back to the 17th century and offers a wealth of original features to include a beautiful feature oak staircase and exposed ceiling timbers. Positioned conveniently and within walking distance of the small market town of Ellesmere. Also having the advantage of the mere closeby with lovely gardens and woodland and the North Shropshire Canal. Easy access to larger towns Oswestry (8 miles), Shrewsbury (16 miles) and Chester (25 miles). A viewing is highly recommended.

£349,000

ELLESMERE

A two bedroom terraced property located on the edge of Ellesmere convenient to all amenities and within walking distance of the picturesque mere. Having lounge with feature brick fireplace and slate hearth and beams to ceiling. Bathroom, Kitchen and two bedrooms. The property has rear yard and private terraced garden. There is a resident□s parking permit available.

£106,500

OSWESTRY

A Two bedroomed Terraced Property ideal for the Town Centre. Two reception Rooms, Kitchen, 2 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Attic Room, Cellar. Gardens to the rear. An ideal opportunity for a first time buyer or investor.

£105,000

SELATTYN, OSWESTRY

NEW

A unique opportunity to purchase Craignant Chapel, set on the outskirts of the idylic rural village of Selattyn and surrounded by beautiful countryside. Selattyn being a most sought after Village and being approximately 4 miles from the A5 Road Network and approximately 3 miles from Oswestry. The Chapel is detached and offers open plan living to the Lounge and Dining Room area with a feature staircase. The Chapel offers a wealth of character to include chapel style arched windows, ledge and brace doors and ceiling and wall timbers. The Chapel must be viewed to be appreciated.

£425,000

PANT

- Three bedroom detached bungalow
- Two reception rooms.
- Restyled kitchen and bathroom
- Elevated position. Garage

£199,500

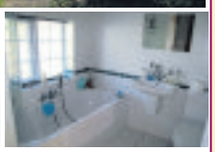
MORDA CLOSE, OSWESTRY

Situated in one of Oswestry's most sought after locations and sits amongst extensive gardens. Having 4 bedrooms this detached family home needs to be viewed to be fully appreciated. Briefly comprising, Lounge, Dining Area, Conservatory, Kitchen, Utility, Sitting Room/Bedroom 3, shower Room, Family bathroom. Double Garage, ample parking for vehicles, caravan etc.

£375,000

MORDA

NEW PRICE



- Occupying a most pleasant position overlooking open fields
- A 3 bedroom semi detached house needs to be viewed to be fully appreciated.
- Ent hall, Cloaks.w.c., Lounge, Sitting Room,
- Utility, Breakfast Kitchen, Bathroom. Good sized front and rear gardens with Detached Garage to the rear.

£173,000

3 Queen's Court, Oswald Road, Oswestry, SY11 1RB, Opposite Iceland. 01691 659951
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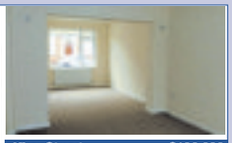
Llangollen 01978 860346 Wrexham 01978 340000

RICS

NEW - NO CHAIN

Maplehurst Drive, Oswestry £165,000

- A most comfortably **appointed** and spacious Detached Modern Two/Three Bedroom **Bungalow** in a most popular location
- Wide Entrance Hall, Sitting **Room,** Bedroom/Dining Room with **Conser**vatory off,
- Kitchen, Two further Bed**rooms,** Family Bathroom. Double **glazing,** Gas fired central heating,
- Lawned rear gardens with **a d**elightful enclosed rear garden **with** patio designed for easy **maintenance.**



NEW - NO CHAIN

King Street, Oswestry £106,000

- A superbly **appointed** and extensively refurbished **End-of-T**errace Residential House that has been carefully restored by the present owners and is convenient to **all** facilities close to the centre of the town
- Entrance Hall, **Sitting** Room/Dining Room, Fitted **Kitchen,** Two Excellent Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Gas Fired Central **Heating,** Double Glazing, Enclosed Patio to **the** Rear. Ideal for investment or **first** time purchase

NEW - NO CHAIN

Llanforda Mead, Oswestry £275,000

- A most impressive and spacious **Detached** Family Residence that has been **extensively** improved throughout by **the** present owners to present a **delightful** family home
- **Entrance** Porch, Wide Entrance Hall, **Cloak**room, a Large Sitting Room, **Separate** Dining Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room,
- Four **Excellent** Bedrooms, En-Suite **Shower** Room, Family Bathroom. Gas fi**red** central heating, double glazing, **delightful** gardens and grounds **together** with a double garage

NO CHAIN

St Martins Road, Gobowen £219,500

- 2 BRAND NEW Detached **Houses,** Situated within a short **cul-de-sac**
- **Ent Hall, Cloaks, Dining Rm, Large Sitting Rm with Square Bay**
- Fully Fitted Kitchen with **Appliances.** Utility Room, Four Bed**rooms**
- En-Suite Shower, Family **Bath**room Gas C/H, Double Glazing
- Garage and parking, Rear **Gar**dens

NEW PRICE

Bradley Fields, Oswestry £199,950

- A most **comfortably** appointed and spacious **Detached** Bungalow set in **a large corner plot**
- Wide Entrance **Por**ch, "L" Shaped Sitting **Room/Dining** Room, Kitchen
- Sun Room/Utility**,** Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom
- Majority double **glazing,** Oil C/H, cavity wall **insulation**
- Garage, lawned **gar**dens with an enclosed rear gar**den** with patio

NEW PRICE

Powis Avenue, Oswestry £135,000

- A most spacious and comfortably **appointed** Semi-Detached House
- **The accommodation is excellent order throughout**
- **Entrance** Hall, Sitting Room Kitchen/B**reakfast** Room, Large Conserva-tory
- Three **Bed**rooms, Family Bathroom. **Double** glazing, Gas C/H
- Garage and parking lawned garden to fo**re w**ith enclosed garden to rear

TO LET

Penylan Lane, Oswestry £395

- A most comfortably appointed **Mid-**Terrace House situated close to **the** town center and convenient to all facilities.
- Sitting Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Two Excellent Bedrooms,
- Bathroom, a Large Attic Room. Double glazing,
- Gas fired central heating. Sorry **No** DSS.

TO LET

Orchard Street, Oswestry £425

- A refurbished terraced **house** in Oswestry within a short **walking** distance of the town centr**e.**
- Lounge, fitted modern **kitchen** with integrated oven and hob, **2 b**edrooms and bathroom.
- The property benefits from **gas** central heating, full double glazing and patio garden.

TO LET

Cabin Lane, Oswestry £475

- A modern semi **detached** property on the popular Cabin **Lane** area of Oswestry
- Boasting a good **sized** corner plot garden.
- Entrance hall, **kitchen,** lounge, 2 bedrooms and family bathroom.
- The property also **benefits** from gas central heating and **double** glazing thr**oughout**

TO LET

Willow Street, Oswestry £485

- Spacious **3-bed**room flat covering 2 floors
- Living room, **2 b**athrooms, modern fitted kitchen
- Courtyard gar**den** to rear. Town center location

TO LET

School Road, Ruyton XI Towns £525

- A **terraced** property in the village of Ruyton **XI** Towns.
- Lounge **with** fireplace, kitchen with **integrated** oven and hob
- **Enclosed** rear garden, 2 bedrooms and **bath**room
- The p**roperty** benefits from double glazing **thr**oughout and gas central heating

TO LET

High Street, Weston Rhyn £625

- **A d**etached house in the village of **We**ston Rhyn
- **Lounge,** dining room, **kitchen/b**reakfast room, 3 bedrooms **and** family bathroom
- **Lar**ge garden and gas central heating **also** benefit this property

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Property Auction

to be held on 6th December 2012 at 2.00pm.
Lion Quays Hotel, Moreton, Oswestry

Wrexham 01978 340000 Oswestry 01691 652367 Ellesmere 01691 622534
Chirk 01691 772443 Llangollen 01978 800350

RICS

WREXHAM, Bryn Estyn — LOT 1 Guide Price Over £100,000

AUCTION

- Scope for modernisation
- Detached **bungalow**
- Quiet cul-de-sac on the fringe of the town
- Comprises three bedrooms, kitchen, lounge/dining room and bathroom
- Gardens approx 0.15 acres
- Parking and garage.

WREXHAM, Rhostyllen — LOT 2 Guide Price £5,000

AUCTION

A rare **opportunity** to **purchase** a well located parcel of mixed woodland **adjoining** the popular Esless Park residential development. **The** woodland extends to around 1.125 hectares (approximately 2.77 acres).

LLANGOLLEN, Nr town centre — LOT 3 Guide Price £75,000 to £85,000

AUCTION

- A charming Grade II Listed semi-detached cottage
- Spacious accommodation presently single bedroom
- Spacious modern bathroom
- Pine fitted kitchen
- Basement of 16'8 x 10'5
- Multi-fuel burning stove to living room/dining room
- Beams and exposed stonework

WREXHAM, Summerhill — LOT 4 Guide Price £90,000 to £100,000

AUCTION

- Two bedroom
- Semi-detached residence
- Cul-de-sac **position**
- Gas fired central heating
- Double glazing
- Corner plot with garden
- Parking and a garage
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

LLANGOLLEN, Oak Street — LOT 5 Guide Price Over £75,000

AUCTION

- Freehold Investment Opportunity
- Well located in the town centre
- Retail shop with living accommodation above
- Garden area to the rear
- Suitable for a variety of trading uses
- Potential for further works of improvement.

WREXHAM, Chirk — LOT 6 Guide Price £55,000 to £65,000

AUCTION

- Mid-terrace cottage in need of modernisation
- Frontage to the Montgomery Canal
- Living Room, Kitchen, 1 Bedroom, Bathroom & Lean-to
- Partial **double** glazing, off-road parking, garage
- Rear garden with access to canal tow path

WREXHAM, Rhosddu — LOT 7 Guide Price £65,000 to £85,000

AUCTION

- Excellent opportunity to create a spacious detached home
- Heating systems and double-glazing
- Planning permission has been granted for the conversion of the property **into** a spacious single dwelling
- Internal inspection is highly recommended.

2013 Property Auctions

28 March, 20 June, 19 September & 5 December

Welcome to our December Property Auction.

Our December sale contains a range of residential, agricultural and investment properties.

Entries are now being invited for the first sale of 2013 to be held on the 21st March.

If you're looking to sell a Residential, Commercial, Agricultural, Development or Investment property in Cheshire, Shropshire, North or Mid Wales then please feel free to contact us for a free auction appraisal.

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rightmove.co.uk globrix.com homes ON VIEW

Three-bedroom semi in quiet position at affordable price

Offers of around £100,000 are being sought for this three-bedroom semi-detached family home. Number 5 Glanyrmorfa is set on a quiet estate in the village of Llangadfan, near Welshpool, with a primary school nearby and a rural outlook to the rear. The house comprises a hallway leading to a sitting room with fire-place and back boiler, and a snug with log burner and sliding door to the kitchen.

A rear hall leads to a utility room. Upstairs are three bedrooms and a bathroom with overhead shower. There is off-road parking to the front and an enclosed rear garden with lawns and borders, shed and greenhouse.

Call the Welshpool office of Morris Marshall & Poole on 01938 55 4818 or visit www.morrismarshall.co.uk

MMP

Detached family home just one mile from the town centre

Number 30 Balmoral Crescent, Oswestry is an immaculate detached family home in a quiet and well maintained street, one mile from the town centre.

The five-bedroom property is for sale through James & Co for offers in the region of £179,950.

It has a porch, reception hall, living room, dining kitchen, utility, sitting room, cloakroom, five bedrooms, bathroom, integral garage, good-sized low maintenance gardens and the potential for further enhancement to the living accommodation.

For further information contact James & Co on 01691 657077 or visit www.jamesandcoproperty.co.uk

james&co

www.hallsgb.com

Halls 1845

NEW

Outline Planning Permission granted for the erection a detached dwelling located within this popular hamlet.

- Outline Planning Permission
- Hamlet Location
- Attractive Rural Setting
- Single Freehold Building Plot
- Mains Water & Electricity

Building Plot, Dovaston

Price: £150,000 Contact Oswestry

NEW

This spacious detached executive family home is situated in a most prestigious and sought after development within a popular village.

- 5 Bedrooms (2 With En-Suites)
- 3 Receptions & Conservatory
- Gardens
- Double Garage & Parking
- Sought After Village

Tythe Barn, West Felton

Price: £495,000 Contact Oswestry

NEW

An executive detached four bedroom family bungalow situated down a quiet lane in the popular village of Four Crosses.

- 4 Bedroom (2 With En-Suite)
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Detached Double Garage & Parking
- Oil Central Heating
- Gardens To Front, Side & Rear
- Village Location

Breidden Court, Four Crosses

Price: £325,000 Contact Oswestry

NEW

A detached village property with a superb outlook to Whittington Castle, the castle grounds and the Moat.

- 2 Bedroom
- Gas Central Heating
- UPVC Double Glazing
- Detached Workshop / Large Store
- Patio Garden
- Car Parking Area

Castle Court Cottage, Whittington

Price: £174,950 Contact Oswestry

NEW NO CHAIN

A 1950's style detached bungalow offering spacious accommodation with gardens to front, side and rear.

- 3 Bedroom
- Garage
- Parking
- Gardens
- Some Updating Required

Maes Armon, Llanfechain

Price: £175,000 Contact Oswestry

NEW NO CHAIN

A five bedroom detached family home situated in a popular residential area.

- 5 Bedroom (2 With En-Suites)
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Garage & Parking
- Gardens Front & Rear
- Sought After Location

Upper Well Close, Oswestry

Price: £239,950 Contact Oswestry

RICS Offices at:

Shrewsbury (Property) 01743 236444
Ellesmere 01691 622602
Welshpool 01938 555552

Shrewsbury (Agric) 01743 284777
Kidderminster 01562 820880
Whitchurch 01948 663230

Bishops Castle 01588 638755
Oswestry 01691 670320
Worcester 01905 611066

rightmove.co.uk

PROPERTIES OF THE WEEK

Spacious property has been greatly improved throughout

Number 39 Llanforda Mead, Oswestry, is a spacious detached family home that has been extensively improved throughout to become a delightful family home in a premier area of town, convenient for all facilities. On the market for £275,000, it has a porch, wide entrance hall, cloakroom, large sitting room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, four bedrooms (one ensuite), bathroom, gas-fired central heating, double glazing, delightful gardens and a double garage.

For more details please contact Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367 or visit www.bowensonandwatson.co.uk

Modern house includes annexe and conservatory

Penrhyn, 8 Maes Castell, Castle Caereinion is a modern house with an annexe that could accommodate extended family. On sale for £325,000, the cul-de-sac property has ample off-road parking, gardens to the side and rear and views over the church. Ground floor rooms include a sitting room, study, dining room, conservatory, kitchen and utility room. On the first floor there are four bedrooms, one ensuite, and a bathroom. The annexe has a bedroom, shower room, living room, kitchen and wc.

For further details please contact Halls' Welshpool office on 01938 555552 or visit www.hallsgb.com

Ground floor apartment would be ideal first-time buy

A two-bedroomed ground floor flat in a cul-de-sac close to the centre of Oswestry is on the market for offers around £89,995. Number 9 Minshall Place would make an ideal first buy or investment property. Accommodation comprises an entrance hall, a lounge, restyled kitchen, two bedrooms and a bathroom. There is ample parking at the front, storage and a fenced rear garden with a patio, lawn, shed and decking.

For more details please call Samuel Wood and Company on 01691 659951 or visit www.samuelwood.co.uk

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TIPS OF THE WEEK

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NEWS Tel: 01691 668094

Jewellery taken in house burglary

JEWELLERY of 'considerable sentimental value' was stolen by raiders in a day-time burglary in Gobowen, police said.

The theft follows break-ins in the nearby village of Whittington last week.

Thieves forced a door to gain entry to the home in Meadow Way in Gobowen between 7am and 5.30pm last Wednesday.

A search was carried out and three jewellery boxes containing gold rings, earrings, watches, a sovereign coin necklace and an assortment of costume jewellery were stolen.

West Mercia Police spokesman Richard Ewels said: "Some of the items stolen have considerable sentimental value.

"We are appealing for witnesses who may have seen someone acting suspiciously in the Meadow Way area.

"We are also seeking information concerning the identity of the offenders.

"Contact Oswestry police station on 101 or call the anonymous Crimestoppers charity on 0800 555111."

Wednesday's break-in follows two burglaries on consecutive days in Whittington.

Those burglaries happened on October 31, at a property in Station Road between 8.30pm and 10pm and then on the following day at a bungalow in the village between 12.15pm and 6.30pm.

Police believe the same thieves were involved in the Whittington raids.

New housing firm moves step closer

by Graham Breeze

PLANS to spend £150,000 setting up a company to take over the running of council housing in Shropshire have edged closer, with senior councillors backing the proposals.

Shropshire Council wants to change the way its 4,200 properties in the Oswestry and Bridgnorth areas are managed.

Although the authority will continue to own the homes, it wants them to be maintained by an arm's length management company, which it will also own.

The name of the new company was revealed as Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing, or Star Housing, at last Wednesday's cabinet meeting.

The plan is for Star Housing to be run by a management board made up of tenants, councillors, volunteers and housing staff.

It will come into being in April if councillors give their approval.

Councillor Malcolm Price said there had been 'extensive' consultation with the affected residents through letters and drop-in events.

Favour

A report to the meeting said only 14 per cent of affected tenants responded to the consultation.

Of those, nearly half said they were in favour of the plans.

Some tenants, including the Oswestry Defend Council Housing campaign group, had raised fears that the move could pave the way for privatisation of Shropshire Council's remaining council housing stock.

But Councillor Price defended the changes, saying: "There is nothing in this for Shropshire Council."

He said the plan was for some Shropshire Council employees to be transferred to Star Housing 'on their current pay and conditions' and the council's budget for looking after the homes will be preserved.

The set up cost for Star Housing is estimated to be £150,000 and is subject to approval by the full council.

Store extravaganza

Getting ready for the Christmas Extravaganza at the Salvation Army charity shop in Oswestry are volunteers, Hongfei Wang, Martin Harrison, and, front, Gavin Evans.

SHOPPERS in Oswestry are being urged to help support one of the country's best-loved charities this Christmas.

Salvation Army Trading Company's charity shop on Church Street is holding its festive extravaganza from 9am today, Thursday.

The shop, at 22 Church Street, will be revealing the cream of its festive gifts and fashions, which the team has been saving up from donations received over the past year.

It will also be the first chance for customers to see the shop decorated in all its Christmas glory, as the staff and volunteers will be staying behind after the doors shut on Wednesday evening to transform the store and its window displays.

Manager Jane Williams said: "We've got something for everyone."

Concert will raise cash to fund eight day centres

A FUNDRAISING concert will be held at Ellesmere College on December 1 in aid of Age UK's eight north Shropshire day centres.

The event will feature festive music from the Shrewsbury Light Orchestra and local trio, the Gs & Ts, from 7pm.

Tickets, including a glass of wine and nibbles, cost £5.

Hazel Wakefield, a member of the Age UK North Shropshire Supporters' group, said: "As a venue for community events, Ellesmere College presents itself enchantingly at the start of the Christmas season.

"Following the huge success of last year's Christmas fayre and afternoon tea, we are delighted that the headmaster, Brendan Wignall, has offered the school again as the location for this year's festive fundraising concert.

"In the delightful atmospheric candlelight, the audience will be entertained by not only the Shrewsbury Light Orchestra but also the local group the Gs & Ts, and Old Ellesmerian, Paul Russell."

Tickets can be purchased at Ellesmere Fruit and Veg, by calling Hazel Wakefield on 07974 150250 or by e-mailing *mail@ageuknorthshropshiresupporters'co.uk*

Watch out for rogues

RESIDENTS in Mid Wales are being urged to set up 'rogue trader zones' in a bid to put an end to doorstep crime.

Powys County Council says it will support residents to set up the control zones, which would work by residents passing messages about suspicious sellers or traders visiting homes.

Rigid notices will be placed on lamp-posts identifying the Rogue Trader Control Zone, making it obvious that residents in the zone will report suspicious incidents. Homes will also display a special sticker.

Fears out-of-town store could hit shops in centre

A CAMPAIGN group in Oswestry has raised fears that shoppers could be driven out of the town if one of its supermarkets closes.

Members of the OS21 group said plans for the Morrisons store in Station Road to be replaced potentially by an out-of-town supermarket as part of the £45 million Smithfield redevelopment posed a 'serious threat' to the town centre's economy.

It comes after officials at the store admitted the current supermarket could be rented out to a non-food business once the Smithfield store opens in 2014.

Morrisons is currently refurbishing the former BP garage in Beatrice Street which it bought last year. The work is due to be finished by mid-December, but there are plans to create a smaller Morrisons Local store as part of the petrol station site in the future.

Jessie Millar, from the campaign group, said: "OS21 welcomes the news that Morrisons intends to go ahead with the revamp of the Beatrice Street petrol station as it's an important and useful service. However, we remain opposed to the out-of-town development and the out-of-town store Morrison's intends to open, as we feel it poses a serious threat to the town centre economy."

Frank Cromie, general manager of the Morrisons store in Station Road, has previously said a new supermarket and petrol station would be built as part of the Smithfield site and that the existing store could be rented out in future.

Family Announcements

Deaths

SHROPSHIRE STAR

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If by fax or email, please remember to include an address and contact number.

ORME
Denise Christina

Previously Denise Jones of Shrewsbury.

Passed away peacefully on November 5, 2012, aged 53 years.

A much loved Wife, Mum, Grandmother, Daughter and Sister.

Will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Funeral Service to be held at Emstrey Crematorium, Shrewsbury, on Friday, November 23, at 11am.

Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Headway, for which purpose a collection box will be provide at the Crematorium.

All inquiries please to the Funeral Directors

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THOMAS
Bob

Passed away suddenly on November 11, 2012, aged 87 years.

Much loved Husband of the late Glen, loving Dad of Alan and the late David, Father-in-law of Donna and Marina and a dear Grandad and Great-Grandad.

Funeral Service at Oswestry Methodist Church on Monday, November 26, at 2.30pm, followed by Cremation at Emstrey Crematorium, Shrewsbury.

Family flowers only.

Donations if desired to The Stroke Association.

All inquiries to DAVID DAVIES & SONS Telephone 01691 653116.

Acknowledgements

EVANS

Reverend Stanton Thomas

The Family of the late Reverend Stanton Thomas Evans would like to thank everyone for the cards and messages of sympathy.

Thanks to the Reverends Gwilym O Jones, Raymond Hughes and Christopher Carter who conducted the Service.

A special thanks to the Doctors and Staff at The Cambrian Surgery and District Nurses and Carers for the care given in the final weeks.

Also thanks for the donations of £2,000 towards The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, also to David Davies and Sons, Funeral Directors for their thorough and dignified Funeral arrangements.

TOOTH

Isabell Lily

Howard, Philip, Peter and the Family of the late Mrs Isabell Tooth wish to express their sincere thanks to all Relatives, Friends and Neighbours for the cards, letters and other kind messages of sympathy, love and support received at this very sad time, for your attendance at the Funeral Service and for your donations to The League of Friends of Bridgnorth Hospital.

Special thanks to Doctors and Staff at Bridgnorth Medical Practice, Bridgnorth Hospital and to Brown Clee Care for your care during Isabell's illness, to Joanne and Philip for your personal contributions to the Ceremony, to Bridgnorth Flower Shop for the beautiful floral tributes, to all at Bridgnorth Cricket and Hockey Club and to Mike and Sarah, caterers for the refreshments and to the Revd Jeanetta Stokes and Organist Mr Stephen Lomas for leading us in a most uplifting Celebration of Isabell's life.

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Volunteer Val's work is praised by Parky

A WOMAN who has helped people with dementia and their families in Shropshire for more than 20 years has received a charity's top award.

Val Brown was presented with her award from the Alzheimer's Society by television personality Sir Michael Parkinson at a ceremony at the House of Lords.

Sir Michael commended Mrs Brown, 74, for dedicating more than 20 years to volunteering for people with dementia and their carers.

She has trained more than 900 Alzheimer's Society staff and runs a support group in Whitchurch, offering advice and information, referring concerns and following up inquiries, and she also helps out at the dementia cafe in Oswestry.

With two decades of volunteering under her belt, Val is one of Alzheimer's Society's most dedicated supporters. She previously held committee positions as chairman and vice-chairman, ran the Shrewsbury office with her volunteer colleagues and has taken part in fundraising events all over Shropshire.

"You meet lots of like-minded people through volunteering and it's great to put Shropshire and what Alzheimer's Society is doing in the county on the map," she said.

Company rehearses ready for Aladdin performances

by Graham Breeze

IT'S pantomime fun again – oh yes it is – and this year Oswestry Musical Theatre Company is performing Aladdin.

The show will be staged at The Marches School when there will be two evening performances at 7.30pm on Friday, November 30, and Saturday, December 1, with matinees at 2.30pm on Saturday and Sunday.

The creative team of Malcolm Brown, musical director, assisted by Cynthia Davidson and directors Janet Williams and Mark Lord have been plotting for many months and are certain they have a great blend of songs that the audience will be able to sing along with and leave them dancing in the aisles and shouting for more.

The script has been performed by professional companies in the past and all the usual characters are involved from the sinister Abanazar to the hero, Aladdin and his bride Princess Jasmine.

Kate MacDonald, fresh from her triumph as Maria in The Sound of Music, takes the lead role with Rachel Smith as Princess Jasmine.

Chris Smith is the villain of the piece, Abanazar with Mark Lord as Widow Twankey and Tom Whitchurch playing her other son Wishee Washee.

Comedy is provided by police officers Chop and Suey – Heather Williams and Jane Hanmer – the Emperor, Rob Sharp and Notsoshy, Claire Steele.

Appearing from the ring and lamp are Isabella Lord, Slave of the Ring, and Jeanie, Sue Box.

Tickets cost £10 for adults, £8 for children aged 15 & under. There is an extra concession of a free ticket in every booking of 10 seats or more to cater for groups.

The box office is open to the general public at Music Makers, Chapel Court, Oswestry.

Abanazar and The Slave of the Ring played by Chris Smith and Bella Lord

Wishee Washee, Widow Twankey and Aladdin played by Tom Whitchurch, Mark Lord and Kate MacDonald

Jeanie of the Lamp and Aladdin played by Sue Box and Kate MacDonald

Chain will not take over two old shops

BOSSES of an independent supermarket have ruled themselves out of taking over two former Harry Tuffins stores in the county.

Stans Superstore bosses revealed they had been in talks with Midcounties Co-operative who currently own the former Tuffins stores in Bishop's Castle and Craven Arms.

But they said they were not looking for any store acquisitions at the current time.

Midcounties Co-operative bought the Tuffins stores in Bishop's Castle and Craven Arms earlier this year but have been ordered to offload the sites by the Office of Fair Trading over concerns about a breach of competition rules.

Stans Superstore bosses, who run a large supermarket in St Martin near Oswestry and opened a new store in nearby Llangollen in March, confirmed today talks had been held about a potential takeover of the former Tuffins stores.

But store partner Andrew Faulks said no deal had been agreed.

Mr Faulks said: "We can confirm Midcounties Co-operative approached us about the stores.

"We have held talks but we are not looking for any acquisitions at the moment."

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SPOTLIGHT ON CHIRK

Framing firm starts line of fabric crafts

Advertisement feature

COMPTON Framers of Chirk is a well established framing business which over the last 12 months has diversified to include beautiful handmade fabric crafts.

The business is run by husband and wife Michael and Keran Hill.

Michael has been framing now for 16 years, starting whilst in the Armed Forces.

On leaving the forces after 25 years service, he started his business on the Bank Top Industrial Estate in 2003 and in 2006 qualified as a Guild Commended Framer after rigorous practical and theoretical assessments in different aspects of framing.

Two years ago Michael and Keran bought their dream property and moved to Chirk, renaming the business Compton Framers.

Michael said: "I would give my job 10 out of 10 for satisfaction and enjoyment."

Over the years Michael has been presented with a number of challenges by his customers from football boots, international sports caps, wedding cake decorations, Indian wall hangings, a ceremonial sword, the list is endless.

"As a Commended Framer I always think how I can support the item causing no damage to the object and keeping it in its present condition for the longevity," said Michael.

"There are different standards of framing options customers can choose depending on their item to be framed and their budget. Always look for a Commended Framer logo."

Just before last Christmas Keran started making a few handmade fabric crafts and cards for the shop under the name of Comptonrose. "I have now taken over a large corner and a window of the shop with my goods, which are drawing lots of people in," she said.

Chirk Castle framed by Compton Framers

Decorations

"I make everything from corsages, hearts, Kindle covers, notebook covers, Christmas decorations, wedding decorations, cushions, cards in English or Welsh to name but a few. I also offer a curtain and cushion making facility to customers".

The fabrics Keran uses are either Laura Ashley or Clarke and Clarke. "I am now recognised by my fabrics," adds Keran.

"I have taken my crafts to various shows with great success and am therefore attending the Christmas Fair at Erddig for four weekends this year."

The shop is open Tuesday to Saturday from 9am to 5pm

There is customer parking available at the front of the shop.

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The Commended Framers logo – Michael Hill of Compton Framers is a Guild Commended Framer and has been framing for 16 years.

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SPOTLIGHT ON REDNAL

Old airbase thriving home to businesses

Advertisement feature

A FORMER military airbase near Oswestry is now a thriving industrial estate.

Rednal Airfield was built in 1942 when its main function was to train pilots to fly the iconic Spitfire fighter plane.

The remote location made it safe from enemy bombardment and a good place to send foreign pilots for training.

Rednal produced some of the finest air-aces of the era – men like Buerling, Wojda, Clostermann, who were famous World War 2 pilots – and hosts of others.

Pilots would arrive at Rednal, sometimes having escaped from occupied continental Europe, get trained up and be sent on to places like Biggin Hill.

Today Rednal Industrial Estate is home to an ever-growing number of diverse businesses, and activities could not be further away from those terrifying days of World War 2.

Employment

New and established businesses stand side by side on two industrial estates and offer employment to many from the Oswestry area and beyond on the outskirts of the village of Rednal.

Companies such as D&R Forecourt Services, Cambrian Powder Paints, M&J Engineers, Oswestry Body Repairs, Rednal Garage, Rednal 4X4, Adam Ward, Wrigleys Aircooled, North Shropshire Timber and Granite Craft and many others all have their homes at Rednal.

And if you are looking for some inspiration for your hen or stag do, or perhaps a team-building exercise to motivate your staff, Hoverdays have a range of events to suit everyone.

Hoverdays offer a range of activities, including hovercraft experience days, archery, reverse steer buggy driving, segway, blindfold driving and extreme 4×4 driving.

The latest venture sees an all-new skate park being developed at Rednal. Wrigleys Aircooled, who specialise in a full range of VW sales and servicing, are currently putting the new skate park together.

Crispin Wrigley at Rednal Industrial Estate building the new skate park

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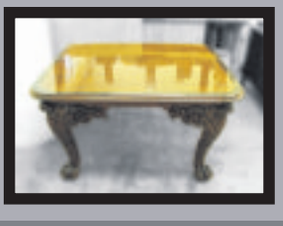

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SPOTLIGHT ON REDNAL

Body repair firm to celebrate 10 years

Advertisement feature

OSWESTRY Body Repairs will be celebrating their tenth anniversary in January.

The Rednal based body repair specialists are well known for their high quality workmanship and have a long list of local satisfied customers.

They cater for all types of vehicle repairs from small scratches, right up to big insurance repairs on cars and commercial vehicles.

The company also recently opened OBR Graphics at their workshop, run by Andy Rimell. Andy has over 19 years experience in the graphics industry.

Fantastic

They can design and carry out vehicle wraps, livery and decals as well as shop signs, 'A' boards, banners, clothing, and much more. They offer competive prices as well as fantastic customer service.

Scott Marston from OBR said: "We feel that customer service is key in any business. We do what we can to make the OBR experience as stress free as possible.

"One service we do offer is mobile estimating for both the body repairs and graphics.

"We realise people don't always have time to come and see us, so we can go to them."

If you would like any more information on the body repairs or graphics call 01691 610949 or view the websites at www.oswestrybodyrepairs.co.uk or www.obrgraphics.co.uk

Scott Marston, Andy Rimell and Phil Wood from OBR Graphics

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NEWS

01691 668094

Scheme will breathe life back into centre of town

A MOVE to breathe life back into vacant Oswestry town centre shops will go before Oswestry Town Council for support.

Oswestry Joint Economic Board has announced £75,000 will be made available to help meet the costs of renovating empty premises and bringing them back into use. Grants will also be available to convert rooms above shops into accommodation.

by Graham Breeze

The capital grant scheme has been launched over worries many of the town centre shops have remained vacant for some time because of the economic downturn.

The economic board bosses hope by bringing life back into some of the empty premises Oswestry will become more attractive and welcoming to visitors.

Oswestry Joint Economic Board is a partnership developed by Shropshire Council and Oswestry Town Council to pool resources and knowledge with a specific remit of economic development.

Town councillors will discuss the finer details of the scheme and a draft application form which spells out what help is available.

The form says: "Working with the Oswestry Joint Economic Board, comprising of Shropshire Council and Oswestry Town Council, the aim is to create an attractive and customer friendly town centre.

"The focus for the grants will be on properties in the town centre and can support works to carry out building improvements, shop fittings and schemes to bring vacant space into use including upper levels. There are two strands to his capital grant scheme.

"Grants up to a maximum of 50 per cent to enable empty premises in the town centre to be brought back into use.

"Grants up to a maximum of 75 per cent towards external improvements to buildings as part of the overall revitalisation scheme.

"Applicants are expected to request the minimum amount of grant needed to deliver the project and provide match funding from their own sources.

"The grants are for capital works not yet started or items that have not yet been purchased."

The shop project is one of several ideas from the economic board which also include helping people to start up their own business.

Surveyor Kathryn's prospects are bright

Kathryn Lewis

A CHARTERED surveyor from a Shropshire firm is celebrating having passed her professional examinations at the first sitting.

Kathryn Lewis, who works as a land agent at Davis Meade Property Consultants in Beatrice Street, has successfully completed her Assessment of Professional Competence (APC) and is now a full member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

Company bosses said APC is a demanding test of knowledge and experience and candidates have to prepare a lengthy critical analysis of their work and pass an interview and presentation in front of a panel of senior chartered surveyors.

Kathryn, 23, joined Davis Meade Property Consultants in 2011 having successfully completed a four-year Rural Enterprise and Land Management Honours Degree course at Harper Adams University College.

Pupils encouraged to be the best they can

Ex-international hockey player Charlotte Hartley meets pupils at Carreghofa School in Llanymynech

FORMER international hockey player, Charlotte Hartley, visited a primary school near Oswestry in a bid to inspire youngsters to pursue and fulfill their dreams.

Carreghofa Primary School in Llanymynech launched its Olympic inspired programme, Be the Best You Can Be, to help pupils discover and develop the unique potential within themselves.

The programme has been developed as part of the legacy of London 2012.

Charlotte was one of the youngest players selected to represent Britain in the 2006 Commonwealth Games where the team won bronze. The following year she won gold at the Junior Olympics.

Headteacher, Rachel Humphreys, said: "I was determined that our school would be one of the schools to undertake the Be the Best You Can Be programme as it rolls out nationally.

"The inspiration offered by high achievers including Olympians, Paralympians and others who strive to achieve their dreams is incredibly powerful and can really reach out and engage young people."

All those taking part will be presented with a special medallion, produced by the Royal Mint.

Students putting on panto at college

SECOND year travel and tourism students from Walford and North Shropshire College are putting on a pantomime performance this Christmas.

The panto, which will take place on December 18 in the theatre of the Oswestry campus, is being organised by the students as part of their course.

All funds raised will be given to two local charities, Hope House Children's Hospice and Evie's Dream.

The students have been hard at work creating and organising their performance of Shrekerella – a merger between the hit film Shrek and pantomime favourite, Cinderella.

Tickets cost £2 per adult and £1 per child, and are available from reception at the Oswestry campus.

Refreshments will be available during the interval and there will be a raffle.

The students are keen that members of the public join in, that they enjoy the performance, and help support the two deserving charities.

Young farmers

LLANFAIR Caereinion Young Farmers Cub will be performing items from the County YFC Eisteddfod at Llanfair Institute tomorrow, Friday from 7.30pm. All are welcome.

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Dog creche owner raising money for Kenyan school

SHE HAS travelled the world, lived in Indonesia and now teaches at a school in Kenya.

Rebecca Chahar-Evans was born and raised in Oswestry and owns a dog crèche business, called Hounds at Home, in the town.

The 43-year-old is also a teacher and travels regularly to Daiga, in Kenya, to educate youngsters in humanities and geography at the primary school there.

She last visited Kenya in February and this was when she decided to raise the cash for a concrete classroom at the school. It currently has classrooms made of soil and wood which can get destroyed by annual monsoons.

Earlier this month she organised an evening talk and book signing event in Oswestry, with the help of her mother Eleanor Knighton, where she raised £1,000.

The event also saw local author Idris Evans agree to donated £1 for each book he sold that night.

With cash from the fundraising night and other donations she received she can now return to Kenya to see the building work start.

She said: "I am really chuffed. It means I won't get muddy feet when I teach."

Craftsmen

When she returns to Kenya she said there would be an army of parents, helpers and craftsmen ready to help to build the new classroom.

"I have been going to Kenya for 12 years," she said.

"My best friend moved there, still lives there and works for a humanitarian charity. That is how I got involved with the school in Kenya.

"I started going there on holidays and now I go every year for my holidays."

Rebecca was educated in Oswestry before going to university at Bristol to study education and geography.

"Then I did the travelling year-out thing and ended up living in Indonesia," she said. "I married a tribesman."

Her travels have seen her visiting many countries including North America, South America, Asia and Australia.

She said: "When I first went travelling I went around the world for three years."

She then returned to Bristol to teach.

But her life took another turn and she has now moved back to Oswestry where she set up her business looking after people's pet dogs.

Travel

Running her own business means she still has time to travel to Kenya to teach at the school which has 258 children.

The pupils there are aged up to 11 years old.

She said she enjoys teaching geography and humanities and has also bought the school a globe to learn about other countries in the world.

Rebecca said she feels fortunate to be able to travel to Kenya still.

"Some people don't have the opportunity that has be presented to me," she said.

Rebecca Chahar-Evans with some of the children in Kenya

Extra work order for missing session

A 21-YEAR-old man from near Oswestry has been given an additional 28 hours of unpaid work after failing to show up for one of his sessions.

Daniel Morris, of Whittington, was given a 32-week suspended prison sentence and ordered to do 150 hours of unpaid work after admitting possession of a class B drug with intent to supply.

He was found with six ounces of cannabis in 99 bags worth £980, Ms Lisa Hancox, for the probation service, said at Shrewsbury Crown Court on Friday.

The court heard he failed to attend a session in August. Judge Robin Onions said said: "I recognise that in the main you are doing well with this order."

Morris now has 62-and-a-quarter hours of unpaid work remaining. He must also pay £72 court costs.

Mr Andrew Holland, for Morris, said his client had a problem with his tooth but failed to obtain evidence from the dentist.

Upcycling course

AN 'upcycling' course will be run at a gallery in Oswestry. It will take place at Qube, in Oswald Road, on December 5 from 6.30pm to 9pm. It costs £15 per person. To book a place call (0169)1 656882.

Marches students enjoy trip to museum

SIXTY-three students from The Marches School in Oswestry recently spent a Saturday in London and visited the Victoria and Albert Museum, the world's largest museum of decorative arts and design.

The trip, open to members of Whittaker House, saw students leaving Oswestry in the early hours to embark on the road to London. While in the city, students had a chance to visit all the galleries.

As the world's largest museum of decorative arts and design, the V & A museum houses a permanent collection of over 4.5 million objects.

Named after Prince Albert and Queen Victoria, it was founded in 1852, and it has since grown to cover twelve and a half acres and 145 galleries.

Its collection spans 5,000 years of art, from ancient times to the present day, in virtually every medium, from the cultures of Europe, North America, Asia and North Africa.

The trip ended with an impromptu sightseeing tour of London, passing key landmarks like Harrods, Marble Arch and Oxford Street.

Jenny Card, Whittaker House Leader, said: "The dressing up exhibit was a huge hit and the staff at the V&A were great with the students."

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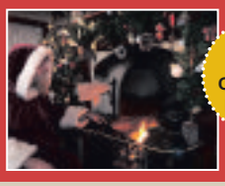

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Charitable fund will support the guides

THE Oswestry-based Charlotte Hartey Foundation has provided funding to allow county girl guides to take part in a European challenge.

Girls guides from Prees are taking part in the Jailbreak event next year and have had £500 from the foundation towards costs.

Paul Seager from the foundation said: "Jailbreak provides an opportunity for young girls to face personal challenges whilst travelling across Europe.

"It starts in the UK. The girls have to plan their own way, visiting three countries while completing given challenges along the way.

"The project will develop organisational skills, team work and give the girls the opportunity of new experiences like flying for the first time. Invited to take part are Rebecca Furber, Jessica Roberts, Lauren Bond, Shannon Davies and Helen Chadwick and are all local to North Shropshire."

Sarah Davies, leader for 1st Prees Senior section, said: "Many girls in guiding never get the opportunity to take part in these activities due to the financial costs.

"We are trying to raise funds to help enable this trip to go ahead and give some girls from the local area of a chance to do something they would never have thought the were able to do."

Few finer sights than our own jackal – the red fox

NAMIBIA is a land of contrasts. Relatively lush in the northernmost tip, scrubby savannah south of that, before becoming awash with sand and desert for most of its middle section and home to a raging river on its southern border with South Africa.

ON THE WILD SIDE with Ben Waddams

I needn't remind sailors of flimsy vessels that it also has an infamously brutal coastline, rarely survived in case of shipwreck.

But the stark beauty of Namibia is not just to be found in its sand dunes, bushman-inhabited scrub and wildlife-rich salt pans, you don't need daylight to appreciate this place.

My gaze was drawn away from the 'bush TV' (the campfire) and upward into the heavens. There lay a billion clusters of stars, a cacophony of diamonds on a vast sheet of black nothingness.

It was late and as my fellow campers made their excuses and crawled into their tents, I took a last chicken leg from the blackened grill and retired myself, surrendering my weary yet satiated body to sleep. I was woken by a snuffling sound outside the tent flaps.

Fearing it may be a hyena and not wanting to go the same way as a fellow camper some years back, (who peered out to see one of these odious beasts finishing off his supper before making a start – and end – on him), I was rather relieved to see the outline of a small dog. I crept out for a closer look. It was not a feral hound from some desert tribe, but a jackal, savaging for scraps.

I walked over to the dying embers of the fire and sat as he approached. I took down a partially eaten spare rib and held it out for him. He grabbed it with barely a snap and returned to the dark. The following morning we were told that jackals had been seen around the camp the previous evening.

We were not to feed them. They were often inclined to bite and they carried rabies.

Jackals are 'habitat generalists', surviving in a vast array of environments.

Flourish

They are also omnivorous, eating rodents, birds, eggs, insects, fruits and berries. And of course they will also scavenge from humans, wherever they can find us.

Indeed even in the driest deserts (such as the Namib) they seem to flourish. Further north however in the Arctic, there is a different dog in town.

The red fox is our very own jackal and although the two are only distantly related, they share almost all the same characteristics.

So well adapted to their surroundings are they, that red foxes are found almost everywhere in the Northern hemisphere.

They are native to Europe, Asia south to India and east to Japan, parts of northern Africa and the Middle East, and North America. They have been introduced to Australia.

First Snow – acrylic on board by Ben Waddams.

Just like their African cousins, our foxes are omnivorous and consume a wide variety of plant and animal prey.

Their basic diet is small rodents but they also hunt rabbits, birds, and the occasional squirrel.

Berries and rosehips are an important part of their diet in some seasons and they will also eat crabs, earthworms and any carrion available from road or field. As the land becomes bare in December, it is possible to start seeing more foxes and maybe you'll agree with me that there can be few finer sights on a still, snowy morning, whether in town or country.

For a list of Ben's exhibitions over December, check out his website at: www.waddams.webs.com

Heritage site to get gardens project

A PROJECT has been launched to develop a community garden in a Unesco World Heritage Site on the Shropshire border.

The Llangollen Canal and its famous Thomas Telford-built Pontcysyllte aqueduct won the prestigious title in 2009, putting it on a par with global wonders like the Taj Mahal and the Great Barrier Reef.

Plans are now being developed for a community garden at Chirk Bank, which is within the World Heritage Site area, with developers saying it will provide an area of peace and tranquility for locals and visitors alike.

The group behind the plan has asked for funding from the area's local joint committee, which meets on Tuesday.

A report to the committee says: "This project has been submitted by Chirk Bank Community Chapel in order that the group can facilitate a community allotment project alongside the canal.

"The site has five allotments which are maintained by local residents. The group wish to set up a community garden and wildlife area to the front of the site with disabled benches.

"The new areas will be tended by the existing allotment holders and open to the community to assist. The site will help create an area of tranquility."

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Chance to take walk in castle parkland

PEOPLE are invited to take a winter walk round a castle near Oswestry.

Chirk Castle's estate, gardens, tower and tearoom will be open every day until December 16.

Visitors will be able to meet medieval guards and learn about the castle's history during half hourly talks on the building's architecture.

At weekends people can discover how the National Trust cares for its priceless collection of paintings, furniture and other objects.

There is also the option of taking a bracing walk around the castle's historic parkland and gardens.

Food and drink will also be available during the day between noon and 3pm.

Chirk Castle Estate, Garden Tower and tearoom will be open from 11am to 3pm on Monday to Sunday until December 7.

It costs £5 for adults or £2.50 for children. National Trust members free.

Coffee is served

THE next village coffee morning in Dolanog, near Llanfair Caereinion, will be held in the community centre on Saturday from 10am to 12.30pm. There will be a large variety of stalls and a raffle.

Looking back at town shops of yesteryear

by Toby Neal

HOW do you do your shopping? Well, let's guess.

No need to bother with milk, because the milkman leaves that on the doorstep. For your meat, you go to – and where else? – your local butcher. Fish means a trip to the fishmonger and, for groceries, obviously you visit your local grocer. Or maybe you just go to the supermarket and get everything from there?

The latter is what people tend to do nowadays, and the result has been the disappearance of many traditional shops which did not stock a whole range of goods, but concentrated on what they did best and gave a personal and highly knowledgeable service.

Here is a photographic reminder of some of Oswestry's stores from yesteryear.

First we shall start with a photo of J. Faulks and Sons general butchers in the town, with all the meat hanging outside the front in a way you just don't see nowadays. This particular photo was discovered by Mr Derek Faulks in his home in Sefton Place, back in 2002.

The 1941 Kelly's Directory has Faulks Bros. butchers being at 26 and 28 Leg Street, although the photo looks like it might be a bit earlier. Take a look at the cobbles in front of the shop.

J Faulks & Sons Central Butchers. The business is thought to have closed in around 1945.

Speaking at the time he found the photo, Mr Faulks said he thought his father's uncle, George Faulks, was standing in the doorway. He said: "I think the other man is my father's grandfather, but I'm not sure of his name. I remember visiting the shop as a schoolboy with my mother and seeing whole lambs and sides of beef hanging up, and a bench outside with cut meats on. I think the business closed down in around 1945, but I've no idea why."

Irwins at 8 Bailey Street must have been among the biggest stores in the town, judging by the number of staff posing outside, together with what is presumably a delivery van on the far right.

Advertised

This photo, which looks like it dates from the 1930s, came from a Mrs Oliver of Ford. Irwins was a grocery business but does seem to have been a 1930s equivalent of today's supermarkets and among the products advertised in the windows posters are marmalade, aspirin, and butter.

Lastly we have Hunters Ltd, which were at The Cross.

While the sign above the store describes them as 'Provision Importers' and 'Tea & Coffee Merchants', the store obviously had lots of strings to its bow as the wares on display range from meat, to Quaker oats, butter, Canadian cheese, saucepans and buckets. The photo looks as though it might date from shortly before World War One.

Hunters Ltd, at The Cross, had a selection of items on sale

John Irwin and Sons grocers were at 8 Bailey Street, Oswestry

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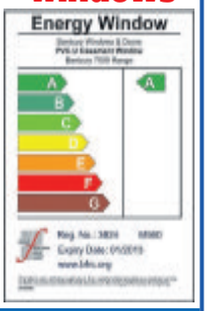

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THE ARTS 01691 668094

Music and art event to showcase town talent

by Graham Breeze

AN ART and music event will be launched in Oswestry tomorrow, Friday, to give performers a taste of the limelight.

The Net Works project at The Ironworks will see established artists and musicians mix with new performers, including talented youngsters from Oswestry's Marches School.

Ros Gore, from the Ironworks, said the aim was to discover some of the town's hidden talent and would hopefully become an important aspect of the town's art scene.

Mrs Gore said: "We are trying to give local people, including local schools, a platform to show off their work and their talent. Many people in the area are incredibly talented but don't show off their work or have an opportunity to perform.

"We think Net Works is a perfect opportunity to celebrate the wide variety of talent, some of which the public won't know or be familiar with.

Launch

"One key aspect is involving young people and we will have students from the Marches School performing at our launch night on November 23. We hope to then widen it to other schools including Rhyn Park and Oswestry School."

Mrs Gore said the new project had been inspired by the Umbrella Factory which brought a combination of art and music to the Ironworks.

She said: "Umbrella worked really well and when it came to an end there was nothing to replace it. This has been inspired by Umbrella and Kate Mason who ran it.

"Appropriately Kate will also be at the launch of Net Works, performing with The Innocent. Other performers include the Barry Edwards Duo who will be performing jazz.

"Superb photographs from Robin Hepburn-Evans will be on display. Robin was named runner-up in the National Landscape Photographer of the Year competition. Work by artist Christine Davies will also be on show."

Admission is £4 and the fee will be donated to Hope House Children's Hospice.

Pottery painting fun

Pottery painting sessions for all the family were held at Honey Pots in Oswestry. Helping out with some painting was Catherine Cole from Honey Pots.

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GIG GUIDE 01691 668094

Duo taking to stage with a musical mix

GIG GUIDE with Chrissy Symmons

A MUSICAL rainbow is stretching over Oswestry, Welshpool and the borders this week with a large range of music styles being performed.

InWelshpool on Friday night Little Red Bird will be playing at The Royal Oak Hotel. The musical duo is Matt Morris on vocals, guitar and banjo and Louisa Jones on vocals and they play Bluegrass, old time and American Folk music.

Oswestry singer Libby Gliksman will be performing at the Lowfield Inn, in Marton, with her repertoire which has been inspired by the likes of Ray Charles and Adele.

Singer songwriter, Danny Gruff, is the latest to appear at the acoustic nights in Wilsons in Church Street, Oswestry, tomorrow (Friday) from 9pm.

Danny, who is about to release his latest EP, Saturday Night, Sunday Mornings, is from Wrexham. He is about to embark on a tour with Dave Giles and Candle Thieves.

Saturday night sees The Walls restaurant in Oswestry playing host to Jazz Evening' Louis Noble Jazz Band.

The evening will include traditional Jazz music as well as a three course meal. It has been organised in aid of the mental health charity based in Newtown, Powys, called Rekindle. The night starts at 7.30pm and costs £40.

Synergy will be at The Talbot Country Inn, in Ruyton XI Towns, on Sunday night.

It is a Spanish three voice harmony trio which plays Mediterranean music, Flamenco pieces, and classic favourites. It is a free event that starts at 8pm.

Every Sunday night at The Royal Oak Hotel in Welshpool people are invited down to take part in the Open Mic night.

On Tuesday night from 8.30pm in Oswestry Laurie Levine will be performing at Ironworks, in Church Street.

She is a singer/songwriter from South Africa who's music is rooted in Americana/folk.

Synergy will be at The Talbot Country Inn, in Ruyton XI Towns, on Sunday night

Tickets cost £5 and for information call (01691) 679123.

There will be a little drama on the Shropshire/Wales border again as Llanymynech Amateur Dramatic Society perform Murder in a Play. The show opened on Wednesday and continues until Saturday. It starts at 7.45pm and tickets cost £6 or £5 for concessions.

If you would like to see your gig in this guide then email csymmons@shropshirestar.co.uk

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Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km): Highest FORD Fiesta 1.4 Duratec (96PS), A4 : urban 32.8 (8.6), extra urban 56.5 (5.0), combined 44.1 (6.4). Official CO_2 emission 149g/km. Lowest FORD Fiesta 1.25 Duratec (60PS), M5 : urban 39.8 (7.1), extra urban 65.7 (4.3), combined 52.3 (5.4). Official CO_2 emission 124g/km. This supersedes all previously advertised manufacturer's promotions. Details correct at time of going to print. Subject to availability. Contact us for terms and conditions. Where savings are shown, advertised prices are calculated by deducting the saving from the manufacturer's recommended OTR price. Vehicle shown for illustration purposes only.

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Yeti helping Skoda smash sales record

The ride height of the Yeti has been lowered for improved aerodynamics

THE NEWS on the street is that Skoda bosses are planning a party to celebrate record sales figures.

While many, more prominent brands, are finding the going tough it seems Skoda has found the right formula and has already broken last year's record figures with just 10 months of the year gone.

That's the fourth straight year that the brand has beaten its previous best. With two months of the year still to go, last year's record of 45,061 new car registrations has already been beaten.

DRIVE TIME with Graham Breeze

During October Skoda registered 4,759 new cars in the UK and year-to-date registrations stand at 46,281, up 17.9 per cent on 2011.

UK market share currently stands at 2.6 per cent – the first time that Skoda has reached October with a market share above 2.5per cent.

Having just driven Skoda's outstanding Yeti it doesn't surprise me one bit. I'd already been impressed by the model and the 1.6TDi Elegance GreenLine didn't disappoint either.

The Yeti has built up a big following since launch and really is a stylish and practical alternative to the traditional family hatchback.

Comfortable

The test model was a two wheel drive example with a responsive 1.6TDi CR 105PS engine and five speed gearbox.

The GreenLine is built to be friendly to the planet and emits only 119g/km and tops 61 miles to a gallon of diesel on the combined circuit. Performance isn't compromised though because this model has a top speed of 109mph and 0-62mph in 12.1seconds.

It's also fun to drive with surprisingly sharp steering and body control. There's a massive cabin and versatile seating arrangements making this model an ideal family unit. There's comfortable seating, head room to spare and plenty of room for five as well as all their luggage.

The distinctive shape means you'll either be a fan or take an instant dislike but rising sales seem to suggest most people find this an attractive proposition.

The high seating position means vision is superb and park assist helps in those tight spaces. Seven airbags help protect driver and passenger and there's hill hold control together with a fuel saving stop-start system.

All models have active anti-whiplash head restraints and twin front-, side- and curtain airbags. Models from S trim upwards get a driver's knee bag. Four-wheel drive cars have stability control as standard, but on front-wheel drive models, it only comes as standard on Greenline II and Elegance-trimmed models. An alarm is standard across the range.

In gleaming white and with ride height lowered by 20mm to improve aerodynamics the Yeti on test had an imposing presence while 16" alloys, full leather interior, four-spoke multi-function steering wheel and full leather upholstery mean the model is well specced.

There's a bit too much wind noise for my liking and the rear seats are a good bit heavier than expected. The test model was more at home around town than in the country and I'm pretty sure I'd be going for the four wheel drive version to get the full benefit.

The test models hits the road at £20,540 which included £65 for floor mats. If I'm paying over £20,000 for a car I expect mats as standard.

Smart on the streets – the Yeti makes an imposing presence in gleaming white

> **"The high seating position means vision is superb and park assist helps in those tight spaces."**

The Yeti's seats feature a leather trim

BUMPER TO BUMPER

CAR: SKODA YETI ELEGANCE GREENLINE
Model: 1.6TDi CR 105PS
Price: £20,540
Top speed: 109mph
Performance: 0-62mph in 12.1secs
CO2 emmisions: 119g/km
Combined fuel: 61.4mpg

2009 59 FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC 5-door Intense Blue Metallic, 18,000 miles FSH £7799

2009 59 AUDI A3 1.9 TDi SPORT BACK SE Manual, Metallic Blue, one owner, 22,000 miles, FSH £12,499

2006 06 BMW 318i M-SPORT CONVERTIBLE Manual, only 38,000 miles, immoba Red, FSH £9999

2009 59 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCi ACCENTA Manual. Bright Blue Metallic, 10,000 miles, FSH £11,999

2009 09 VW GOLF 2.0 TDi SE 5-door Manual. Metallic Blue, 37,000 miles, one owner £11799

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2009 59 AUDI A3 1.9 TDi SPORT BACK SE Manual, Metallic Blue, one owner, 22,000 miles, FSH.....£12,499
2010 10 AUDI A4 2.0 TDi SE AVANT 6-speed Manual 140bhp. Metallic Silver, 64,000 miles, FSH.....£13,999
2007 57 AUDI A6 3.0 TDi QUATTRO S-LINE LE-MANS SALOON Auto. 38,000 miles, leather, sat nav, fully loaded, Metallic Black.....£16,999
2006 56 AUDI TT 2.0 TFSi S TRONIC Metallic Silver, 50,000 miles, 1 owner, 18in alloy wheels, FSH..... SOLD
2007 57 BMW 120d SE Coupe 6 speed Manual. Metallic Grey, 50,000 miles, FSH.....£11,999
2006 06 BMW 318i M-SPORT CONVERTIBLE Manual, only 38,000 miles, immoba Red, FSH.....£9999
2008 58 BMW 318i SE 2.0 4-door 6 Speed Manual. Blue Metallic, 17in alloy wheels, one owner, only 9,900 miles..... SOLD
2008 08 BMW X3 2.0 D M SPORT Black Metallic with half leather and privacy glass, climate, 19in M Sport alloy wheels, one owner, 18,800 miles..... SOLD
2009 58 BMW 320d SE Coupe Auto. Platinum Bronze Metallic, one owner, 56,000 miles, FSH.....£13999
2002 52 BMW 320 Ci SE Coupe 2-door Manual. Metallic Silver, 73,000 miles.....£3499
2009 59 CITROEN C3 1.4 HDi AIRDREAM 5-door. Metallic Silver, 30 a year Road Tax, 1 owner.....£6999
2009 09 CITROEN BERLINGO 1.6 HDi 5-door Diesel. Blue, 1 owner, 17,000 miles,. £30 road tax.....£7999
2009 09 FORD FUSION 1.4 TDCi ZETEC Manual, 27,000 miles, 1 owner, £30 road tax, Metallic Blue.....£7299
2006 56 FIAT PUNTO 1.2 DYNAMIQUE 5-door. Metallic Blue, 20,000 miles, FSH.....£4499
2009 58 FORD FIESTA 1.4 STYLE + 5-door. Squeeze Green Metallic, 1 owner, 14,000 miles, FSH..... REDUCED £6999
2009 59 FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC 5-door Intense Blue Metallic, 18,000 miles FSH.....£7799
2009 09 FORD FUSION ZETEC 1.4 TDCi 5-door. Blue Metallic, 27,000 miles, one owner, £30 a year road tax.....£7499
2009 09 HYUNDAI I30 COMFORT 5-door. Metallic Black, 21,000 miles.....£6499
2010 HYUNDAI i10 Auto 5-dr. Only 6,000 miles, 1 owner, Metallic Black.....£6,499
2005 05 HONDA JAZZ 1.2 S 5-door Manual. Black, 68,000 miles, FSH.....£2999
2009 59 KIA CEED 1.6 LS 5-door Diesel. Metallic Blue, 33,000 miles, 1 owners.....£8499
2009 59 KIA SOUL 2 1.6 5-dr. 1 owner, Metallic Silver, 12,000 miles.....£8499
2004 04 MAZDA MX5 1.6 Manual, only 38,000 miles, Metallic Silver, FSH.....£4299
2008 08 MERCEDES A150 CLASSIC SE 5-door. Metallic Blue, manual, 1 owner, 18,000 miles.....£7499
2003 53 MERCEDES SLK 200 KOMPRESSOR Metallic Black, 2 tone, leather interior, FSH, 100,000 miles auto.....£6499
2005 05 MITSUBISHI COLT 1.3 CZ1 5-door, Metallic Silver, 75,000 miles.....£2499
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2001 Y NISSAN MICRA 1.4 3-door. 86,000 miles, FSH.....£1499
2005 55 NISSAN PRIMESTAR Camper Van 2.7 DCi 6 speed Manual. Brand new camper conversion by Gee Wagen, 57,000 miles.....£11,999
2009 59 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCi ACCENTA Manual. Metallic Red, one owner, 23,000 miles.....£10,999
2009 59 NISSAN NOTE VISIA 1.6 Auto 5-dr. 1 owner, 24,000 miles.....£6999
2009 59 NISSAN NOTE 1.4 ACCENTA 5-dr. Metallic Green, 1 owner, 17,000 miles.....£6999
2007 57 PEUGEOT 308 1.6 VTi SPORT 5-door. Dark Grey Metallic, alloy wheels, AC, AC, front fog lights, 34,000 miles..... SOLD
2008 08 PEUGEOT 207 1.4 M Play 3-door. Metallic Silver, 30,000 miles.....£5499
2009 59 PEUGEOT 107 998cc 5-door. Red, 10,000 miles, FSH, 1 owner, £20 a year Road Tax.....£6499
2004 04 PORSCHE CARRERA 4s 4X4 4 Wheel Drive. Silver Metallic, Grey Leather, 46,000 miles, FSH, must be seen..... REDUCED £24,999
2009 59 RENAULT CLIO 1.2 DYNAMIQUE EXTREME 5-door. Metallic Blue, 9,000 miles, 1 owner.....£7299
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2009 09 SKODA FABIA 2 1.4 Estate. Blue Metallic, one owner, only 15,000 miles from new.....£7499
2009 59 TOYOTA YARIS 1.5 D4D I-SPIRIT 5-door. Bright Red, 1 owner, 62,000 miles, £30 a year tax, 65+ mpg, FSH.....£6499
2006 56 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2i 16V CLUB 5-door. Bright Red, 57,000 miles, air con.....£4499
2010 60 VAUXHALL COMBO 1.3 CDTi Van. White, only 23,000 miles, FSH, 1 owner.....£5999 + VAT
2009 09 VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.6 DESIGN Manual. Silver, 1 owner, 15,000 miles..... SOLD
2006 56 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.9 CDTi DESIGN 5-door Manual Hatchback Diesel. 47,000 miles.....£5999
2010 60 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 1.9 CDTi SRi Metallic Red, manual, one owner, 18,000 miles.....£11,999
2002 52 VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 LS 5-door. 110,000 miles, Metallic Blue, 12 months MoT, 3 months warranty.....£1499
2002 02 VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 2+ HATCHBACK Metallic Blue, 105,000 miles.....£1,499
2008 08 VOLVO XC90 DE SE Geartronic , 7 Seats, 43,000 miles, half leather interior FSH Graphite Grey Metallic.....£19999
2009 09 VW GOLF 2.0 TDi SE 5-door Manual. Metallic Blue, 37,000 miles, one owner.....£11799
2009 59 VW GOLF 1.4 TFSi 5-door Manual. Metallic Silver, only 6,000 miles.....£9699
2003 03 VW POLO 1.4 3-door Manual. Bright Red, 61,000 miles, FSH.....£3,250
2003 03 VW POLO 1.4 3-door. Bright Red, AC, FSH, 61,000 miles.....£3250
2009 09 VW SCIROCCO GT 2.0 TFSi COUPE 200PS Blue Metallic, one owner, only 13,700 miles, 5-speed box, 18" alloy, climate control, parking sensors.....£15999
2004 04 VW PASSAT 1.9 TDi SPORT 130BHP Manual 6 speed Saloon. Metallic Blue, FSH + cam belt, FSH, 86,000 miles.....£3499 SOLD
2009 59 VW TOURAN1.9TDi Blue Motion, 6-speed, manual, Metallic Blue/Black, leather seats, Sat Nav, 56,000 miles, one owner..... SOLD

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2007 57 BMW 120d SE Coupe 6 speed Manual. Metallic Grey, 50,000 miles, FSH £11,999

2003 03 VW POLO 1.4 3-door. Bright Red, AC, FSH, 61,000 miles £3250

2010 10 AUDI A4 2.0 TDi AVANTE SE 143BHP 6 speed Manual. Metallic Silver, 64,000 miles, one owner, FSH £13,999

2004 04 MAZDA MX5 1.6 Manual, only 38,000 miles, Metallic Silver, FSH £4299

2009 09 VW SCIROCCO GT 2.0 TFSi COUPE 200PS Blue Metallic, one owner, only 13,700 miles, 5-speed box, 18" alloy, climate control, parking sensors £15999

Investment is welcomed

In these uncertain times, Vauxhall's confidence to invest in the future is welcome news, says the boss of a local dealership.

Nigel Williams, managing director of award-winning Arthurs Vauxhall with branches in Oswestry and Newtown, was commenting on the announcement that Opel/Vauxhall is investing 28.5 million euros in extending its Dudenhofen Test Centre in Germany.

"It reinforces people's perception of Vauxhall as a forward-looking company," said Mr. Williams.

Partnership

"Arthurs enjoys a partnership with Vauxhall and from our perspective it is great news that they are investing in the future, for eventually the benefits of the test centre will filter down to us.

"As Vauxhall's partner in Oswestry and Newtown, the modernisation of the high-speed circuit at the Dudenhofen Test Centre is great news which we warmly welcome."

He added: "This is a clear sign of the Opel/Vauxhall commitment to the long-term future of its development facilities. The extensions are a significant contribution to further increasing the quality of Opel/Vauxhall products and bringing fast and affordable innovations to its customers."

Dudenhofen has been described as one of the most modern and versatile test tracks in the world.

Used car market vibrant at Arthurs

Both branches of Arthurs Vauxhall sold 49 used cars at a highly successful Network Q event.

This was followed by a further 12 cars as a result of inquiries from the sale at the Arthurs Oswestry and Newtown dealerships.

Steve Hughes, general sales manager at Arthurs of Newtown, commented on how 'exceptionally busy' it had been at both dealerships. In all his many years in the motor trade he said he had never previously experienced a used car event of such magnitude.

Source

"Arthurs are finding the used car market to be very vibrant and as a result of demand are actively try to source more used cars for re-sale.

"This is almost unheard of at this time of year as most dealers are trying to reduce their stocks of used cars. With our new pricing policy proving so successful, we are bucking the trend and increasing our stocks of used cars."

He added that the sale of used cars from the Network Q event had resulted in both Oswestry and Newtown branches achieving record sales of used cars in a single month.

Steve Hughes said he had never previously experienced a used car event of such magnitude

Business expands with new services

A company which launched just two years ago has expanded into new premises at Rednal and is offering new services.

Heathcotes Field Engineering was opened in Knockin 2010 mainly serving the agricultural community through tractor and parts sales together with repair and servicing provision.

Relocated

Now, two years later, Rob Heathcote has relocated to Rednal and launched Rednal 4X4 to meet the need of his customers.

"Customers were asking if we could work on their four-wheel-drive and other vehicles so we have expanded to satisfy their needs," said Rob.

Rednal 4X4 and Heathcotes Field Engineering now sit alongside each other in a 5,000 sq ft premises on Rednal Industrial Estate.

Rednal 4X4 specialises in the maintenance and repair of four-wheel-drive vehicles but Rob Heathcote and his newly appointed apprentice are prepared to work on any type of vehicle.

After qualifying from Wiltshire College at Lackham with a National Diploma in Land Based Technology, Rob was only 20 when he launched his own company at Knockin.

Two years down the line he has expanded and is offering customers a personal guarantee on all work completed at the Rednal headquarters and offering competitive pricing along with quotations for all work undertaken.

Tractor restoration is a speciality of the company too and there is currently a Massey Ferguson 135 for sale.

● **To contact Rob Heathcote call 07516 009965.**

Rob Heathcote outside his new Rednal headquarters

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Y	**RENAULT CLIO 16v** 3-door, Gold	£1500
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L	**SUBARU 1800 PICK UP** 4WD. Metallic Blue	£1250
53	**CITROEN BERLINGO VAN** White	£1800 inc VAT
04	**RENAULT DCi 70 1.5 VAN** Diesel, White	£1695 + VAT
53	**PEUGEOT PARTNER HDi** White, s/history, exceptional, boarded out bulk head, CD player, 12 months MOT	£1750

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Supercharged Seat has a wealth of star attractions

Seat has released full details of its latest generation Ibiza Cupra, marking an evolution from previous models.

Using a 177bhp version of the Volkswagen Group's 1.4-litre turbocharged and supercharged petrol engine in combination with a DSG twin-clutch automatic gearbox, the Ibiza Cupra sprints to 62mph in just 6.9 seconds and records a potential average return of nearly 48mpg.

The fastest Ibiza will also boast a top speed of 142mph and more standard kit than any other model in the range.

Climate control, automatic windscreen wipers, bi-xenon headlights and LED daytime running lights are included, as well as a Cupra styling pack including model-specific 17in alloy wheels.

It sits lower to the road than the rest of the range thanks to a sports-biased suspension set-up, and stability control (ESP) and an electronic limited-slip differential system (XDS) are standard.

There is also an optional braking system upgrade from AP Racing, and two-tone leather seats are also offered on the options list.

The new Cupra uses a removable media interface called the Seat Portable System. First seen among Seats on the Mii city car, the tablet device is fully integrated into the car's systems and includes satnav, but can be removed to act as a portable navigation or media storage device.

Prices are to start from £18,825 on the road, with prices for options unconfirmed. The first UK cars will arrive in January and order books will open next week.

The Seat Ibiza Cupra sits lower in the road due to its sports-biased suspension system

SsangYong's Korando is offered with zero per cent interest and five-year limitless mileage warranty

Finance deals and service packages from SsangYong

Korean carmaker SsangYong has announced a range of new offers on selected models this winter including the Korando 4x4 crossover and Rodius MPV.

Prices start at £16,995 for the Korando, including a five-year limitless mileage warranty on every vehicle.

Finance at 0 per cent is available on Korando EX manual and automatic models, with 36, 48 and 60-month payment plans.

A Korando EX manual can be driven away for £169 per month. Five years' free servicing is also available on all Korando ES, EX manual and EX automatics when financed.

A similar deal is available on the seven-seat Rodius MPV. From as little as £129 a month, there's 0 per cent APR over 60 months.

The Rodius also comes with five years' free servicing when financed, with the five-year unlimited mileage warranty, even when used commercially.

All offers are available until December 15 on vehicles financed through GMAC.

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10 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 SRi 26k, Silver £7995
59 NISSAN NOTE DCi Pure Drive £6475
57 MONDEO EDGE TDCi Silver £5395
07 PEUGEOT 207 1.6 SPORT Silver £4995
06 FORD FOCUS ZETEC TDCi Blue £5475
06 TOYOTA AVENSIS T3S Auto. 38,000 miles £5495
06 SUZUKI JIMNY 4x4 ..... £5325
06 BMW 330 Diesel, MSPORT, Blue £8995
06 PEUGEOT 307 1.6 SE Diesel, Blue, 46k £3995
56 NISSAN MICRA Grey ..... SOLD
56 PROTON SAVVY, Blue 35,000 Miles £2750
55 MAZDA RX8. Black, 39k £3975
55 PEUGEOT 307 XSi 2.0 HDi Diesel. Bronze Met, Leather £5350
56 VAUXHALL VECTRA Exclusive 1.8 Red Metallic £3450
54 FORD FIESTA FLAME 5-dr. Silver £3395
54 CORSA SXi Blue £1875
54 MG TF Convertible Summer fun, Yellow £2195
54 VAUXHALL ASTRA CWB, Black £2575
04 MGZT 1.8 TURBO Blue £2195
03 CITROEN C5 1.8 Blue, superb throughout £2750
03 MINI COOPER Silver £3995
03 VW GOLF 4 MOTION Leather £3595
03 CITROEN XSARA PICASSO £2495
03 FORD KA Red, Choice of 2, low miles £2195
52 SEAT IBIZA TDi Diesel, Black ..... SOLD
52 FORD FIESTA FINESE, Silver £1995
02 MINI COOPER, SILVER, PANORAMIC ROOF ..... SOLD
02 ROVER 25 IMPRESSION Silver, 46k £1995
X TRANSIT Diesel SWB £2695
W BMW 530 SE Diesel. Leather, Auto £3895
V FREELANDER Diesel £2195
V FOCUS Blue £1250
T MAZDA MX5 Black Convertible £2295
T BWM 318I Blue £1699
V JAGUAR XK8 1 Owner, Low Mileage, Silver, must be seen. POA

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59 PEUGEOT 207 VERV 1.4 3DR, AIR CON, ALLOY WHEELS, RED, ONE OWNER, 20K £5,999
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SPORT

Tigers hit by muddy pitch

OSWESTRY Tigers Under-9s travelled to Shrewsbury Junior Colts but suffered with the pitch going down 1-0.

The boys and girls under 10 Cobras beat Llansantffraid under 10s 4-3 in a friendly. Cole Dyke hit three with the other goal from Lewis Jones.

On Sunday the Cobras beat FC Hodnet 3-0. There was another hat-trick for Cole Dyke. Man of the match was Reece Jennings.

Oswestry Under-13s beat Llanymynech 3-1 with goals from Brandon Rogers, 2, and Matthew Cooper.

Oswestry Under-14s thrashed Saha 11-0 with goals from Charlie Harding 4, Toby Thomas 2, Tom Rodgers 2,Dale Evens 1, Johnathan Jones 1 and David France 1.

Oswestry Boys Under-15s went down 4-2 to Shrewsbury Up & Comers Hawks with Sam Lewis and Jack Morris scoring for Oswestry.

Golf returns

Llanymynech Golf Club

CHRISTMAS Competition No 6 on Saturday, November 17 : 1 Danny Tonks, Terry Wilkinson, Glynn Evans and Joe Davies 101 pts, 2 Andy Roberts, Mal Oakley, Alan Williams and Steve Nash 101 pts, 3 Basil Griffiths, Steve Pritchard, Lloyd Roberts and Brian Reid 100 pts.

Seniors 3 ball AM/AM: 1 Chris O'Neill, Riachard Payne and Ed Garbett 78pts, 2 Barry Ryan, Andy Knott and Mike Pearson 76pts, 3 Griff Barker, Tom Fairclough and Brian Hall 74pts.

Mile End Golf Club

November Medal Div 1: 1 Mark Manson nett 68, 2 Darren Roberts nett 69, 3 Sam Pierpoint nett 69. Div 2: 1 Peter Jarvis nett 62, 2 Phil Griffiths nett 66, 3 Paul Eke nett 71, Div 3: 1 Shaun Hollaway nett 66, 2 Andrew Meddins nett 68, 3 Jason Jones nett 71.

Ladies November Medal: Div 1 1 Moya Holmes nett 71, 2 Janice Turner nett 76, 3 Anna Pugh nett78m Div 2: 1 Janet Bennett nett 75, 2 Janet Edwards nett 79, 3 Anne Walley nett 82.

November Stableford Div 1: 1 Kenton Cawley 41pts, 2 John Turner 41pts, 3 Keiran Davies 39pts, Div 2: 1 Frank Arthur 42pts, 2 Paul Eke 41pts, 3 Richard Osborne 40pts, Div 3:1 Tony Cartwright 38pts, 2 Mike Chesworth 38pts, 3 John Hughes 36pts.

Children In Need: 1 Janet Edwards, Keiran Parry, Paul O'Conner Darren Watkins 94pts. 2 Alan Stansbie, Jake Moreton,Neil Exton, Nick Price 93pts, 3 John Parry, Gary Harper,Ben Power, John Turner 92pts.

Sunday 9 Hole Social: 1 Anna Pugh, Barry Lingard, John Turner 42pts, 2 Alice Seal, Ian Thomas, Adam Turner 40pts, 3 Janice Turner, Keith Evans, Tony Cartwright 39pts.

Oswestry Golf Club

Ladies Competitions: 18 Hole Stableford: 1 Sylvia Baxter 35pts, 2 Diane Jones 33pts, 3 Margaret Brogden 32pts, 4 Margaret green 31pts, 5 Margaret Lynch , Julia Taylor, Tess Hyde, Jean Ferries, Anne Davies and Maggie Brown all 30pts.

9 Hole Stableford: 1 Sandy Wilson and Pauline Davies, both 19points, 3 Gina Hatt, Mary Hughes, Sandra Kelly, Anita Brock, Marion Evans and Wendy Horan, all 15pts.

Christmas Competit: 1 Frank Mottram (10.9) John Janicki (0.3)* and Gary Mumford (3.8)*117 pts, 2 G Godbold (16.3), Grant Tunnadine (10.7), Glynn Buckley (14.9) T Alexander (11.2) 111 pts, 3 Steve Highes, Martin Jones, Simon Pound and Ian Bowe 108pts.

Angling results

Weston Pools results are:

Claypit Sunday
November 11 16 anglers

1 Dave Evans (Doggy's) peg 24 Claypit 18-00, long pole up in the water pellet/maggot carp roach F1's, 2 Jason Andrews (Tri-cast Weston) peg 27 11-03 tip and pole maggot, 3 Ian Ellis (Tri-cast Weston) peg 5 Claypit 10-12 tip rod, F1's and roach, 4 Steve Barwise (Tri-cast Weston) peg 12 Claypit 8-00 pole and tip.

Over 55's Wednesday
November 14 25 anglers

1 Mark Shuttleworth (Tri-cast Weston) peg 12 Weir Pool 47-00 feeder pole, 2 Barry Gabrial peg 15 Weir Pool 45-12 long pole pellet/maggot barbel F1's, 3 Arthur Wood (Tri-cast Weston) peg 5 Stretton 38-00 pole maggot/pellet carp F1's carp barbel.

Weston Open Friday
November 16 12 anglers

1 Barry Davies (Tri-cast Weston) peg 16 Weir pool 37-08 tip and pole maggot F1's and carp, 2 Mike Williams (Church Stretton)peg 29 Canal 36-00 pole corn/pellet crucian carp and f1's, 3 Arthur Wood (Tri-cast Weston) peg 7 Weir pool 26-14 pole maggot/pellet carp F1's and barbel.

Weston Open Saturday
November 17 12 Anglers

1 Miken Philbin(Tri-cast Weston) peg 6 Wilfred Owen 49-12 long pole pellet/maggot carp, F1's and roach, 2 Robbie Griffiths (Matrix) peg 26 Canal 47-12 14/16mt pole, F1's carp, barbel and tench, 3 Mark Plevin (Tri-cast Weston) peg 18 Canal 41-00 long pole pellet.

Weston Open Sunday
November 18 19 anglers

1 Phil Hardman peg 7 Canal 36-04, 2 Barry Gabrial peg 3 Stretton 27-08, 3 Richard Lowry peg 27 Belvidere 24-04, 4 Matt Carrol peg 15 Weir pool 23-08.

Guils manager angry after team slips to 2-1 defeat

BOSS Russell Cadwallader admitted his **GUILSFIELD** side got what they deserved after slipping to a disappointing 2-1 loss at Penycae to remain in the lower half of the Cymru Alliance.

The Guils had gone into the encounter in good heart after some improved showings, but failed to fire as their Wrexham hosts ran out deserving victors.

"We were poor, which was frustrating as our performances have been encouraging for the last two months and I believe we are good enough to be in the top seven or eight," said Cadwallader.

"But last Saturday, we never got going. Penycae fully deserved the win, they wanted it more than us and they could have scored a few more.

"It's disappointing as they are below us in the table and these are the games we need to be getting points from, but we hardly threatened apart from the goal.

"We'll train hard this week and look to put it right at home to Rhydymwyn on Saturday which is another big game for us as they are another team just below us in the table."

Penycae took the lead on 20 minutes when Ian Williams fired in a loose ball that had bounced back off the post after the visitors had failed to deal with a corner.

The Guils were soon back on terms eight minutes later when Danny Barton headed in an inswinging free kick from Mark Davies, but that was as good as it got as Williams forced his way through from midfield soon after to restore the lead that the hosts never looked likely to relinquish.

The visitors did hit the bar in the second half with a header but the flag was already up for offside, and they had plenty to ponder this week if they hope to climb into the top half of the table.

Defender Jonathan Jones misses Saturday's action but Ben White should return after injury ruled him out of last weekend's clash at Penycae who are now level on points with 10th placed Guilsfield.

LLANRHAEADR were left licking their wounds after crashing 11-1 at high flying Rhyl to remain in the basement doldrums in the Cymru Alliance.

After the lowly villagers arrived late following a bus breakdown, unbeaten Rhyl showed no mercywith Tom Rowlands firing four of the goals.

Mark Evans also weighed in with a hat-trick as a shellshocked Llanrhaeadr found themselves eight goals down at the interval, but they could at least take some consolation from a spirited shown in the second half.

Tom Evans did find the net for Llanrhaeadr in the 53rd minute but Rhyl were home and dry long before then with Steve Lewis (2), Dave Forbes and James Gambino the other home marksmen.

While Rhyl were toasting a record breaking victory, Llanrhaeadr could point to feeling decidedly under the weather following a journey to the north Wales coast that saw them forced to summon a new bus after being affected by fumes from the previous vehicle. It all meant they arrived just 20 minutes prior to kick off, and they were immediately off the pace as they were found wanting against the lively home side.

Keeper Lee Davies, summoned into action despite having a couple of dislocated fingers as Connor Lee was unable to travel due to work, was soon picking the ball out of the net in a disastrous first half.

After Rowlands netted the opener on nine minutes, the floodgates opened with the forward completing his hat-trick inside the first half hour by which time the home side were already six goals to the good. The second half saw an improved showing from the visitors which avoided an even bigger margin of victory, although the damage had been done in the first period.

Llanrhaeadr, who host Conwy Borough on Saturday, have plenty to do if they are to lift their relegation clouds, but one consolation is that they were not expected to get any reward from their trip to Rhyl, although the scoreline will put a big dent in their goal difference.

Ladies rise to the challenge in style for a good victory

OSWESTRY Ladies first team faced a tough test against mid-table Timperely 3s but they rose to the challenge in style overcoming their opponents 6-3.

Timperely have achieved mixed results this season but the team that turned out on Saturday showed they wanted to win.

But Oswestry were well prepared arriving with a15-strong, experienced side. They were lacking their regular goalkeeper but Alice Davies stepped into the breach with an excellent performance.

The sides were locked in a stalemate early on but Oswestry managed toopen the scoring through Tracey Royle.

Oswestry continued to work hard, pressing their opponents back with good teamwork.

And it paid off when Debbie Hampson slotted home a beautiful shot.

Not to be outdone Timperely clawed their way back, using good passing to score a goal of their own.

Timperely were being well co-ordinated by a skilful playmaker and they left players high up to try and catch Oswestry on the break. To ensure they didn't pose too much of a threat Oswestry put a marker on the playmaker.

Oswestry continued to frustrate Timperely with their tactics and they scored more goals through Tracy Royle.

Sarah Tipuric also also managed to score her first goal for the team putting Oswestry 6-1 in front.

But the home side showed their grit and in a series of last ditch attacks they scored two goals making the final score 6-3.

Despite a big final effort they could not unseat the Oswestry side from their position as top team in the division.

Oswestry Ladies will be hoping to continue their good form as they face Oxton away. While Oswestry ladies are setting a hot pace in their league, LLANFAIR ladies will be also be looking to keep up the pressure in the North Wales League division one in Saturday's scheduled big home clash with leaders Ruthin.

Newly promoted to the top flight this season, Llanfair – without any action last weekend – have made an excellent start and currently lie in third position with three wins and a defeat.

But that form will be put to the test with a tough encounter against the pacesetters who have yet to drop a point this season

In the same division, WELSHPOOL ladies are at home to Rhyl as they look to make the most of their games in hand. So far they have played just three times, winning two – including a 3-1 verdict against Bangor University in their last outing – and drawing one.

OSWESTRY men, who had a blank weekend, return on Saturday with a home encounter against Evesham as they bid to improve on their mid-table position in the West Midlands League division two.

They currently have seven points from as many games, one point more than this weekend's visitors.

College pupils on target for rifle honours

ELLESMERE College's Rifle Team won top honors in the last open meeting of the season at Appleton Rifle Club in Cheshire.

The successful team who picked up 10 winning trophies was represented by students from year's 9 to 12 who competed in the competition against more than 50 other competitors from all over the country.

College team members who featured heavily in the top honours were Richard Lay taking first place at 100 yards in class B, Katy Leeming winning at 50 yards in class C and Lottie Hulme took first place at 100 yards and second place at 50 yards.

Luke Caldecott achieved a second place at 100 yards in class C and class D and Caro Hulme took second place at 100 yards.

Shooting Academy Coach, Tom Rylands was delighted at the results.

He said: "To pick up all 10 trophies at an open event against all ages, in three different classes, proves how target shooting at Ellesmere is going from strength to strength.

"We have started clay shooting this term and already look to have some potential champions in the making.

"We have over 70 children participating in one target discipline or another each week and the College's vision of providing opportunity in every Olympic Target Sport is beginning to look very realistic.

"We have the raw talent, now we have to work to create the facility."

Olympians runners in good start

OSWESTRY Olympians had a good start to the North Wales Cross Country season and are lying second in Division Two after two races.

In a large field at Llandudno, the men's senior team had seven runners inside the top 80, with Peter Butler leading the way in 12th place.

Other runners were Joe Morris 24th and 6th in the under 20, Ian Lowe 32nd, Neil Bevan 64th, Rich Collins 75th, Matt Pearson, 78th, John Hancock 79th, Richard Foggins 130th and Dave Hughes 135th.

In the men's under 17 race Jimmy Kershaw was second in 21mins 51 secs. In the ladies league Oswestry's Ali Lavendar finished second in a closely-fought race with Telford's Claire Martin.

The Olympians are tied in third place in League 1. Tania Brandon came 27th and third in the Ladies 45, Susie Hancock was 29th, Lauren Davies was 37th. Liz Park was 75th on her debut run and Marilyn Hunt was 87th.

Pupils show off their hockey skills

The team from Woodside School with the certificate they won as heat winners at the hockey festival held at the Marches School in Oswestry

EIGHT primary schools from around the Oswestry area have been showing off their hockey skills at a sports festival in the town.

The festival was staged at the Marches School and organisers said the event was designed to develop young people's skills in the sport.

The event was also aimed at helping students at the Marches School upgrade their leadership skills.

A total of 21 Year 10 Marches students were recruited as 'hockey leaders'.

The secondary school students provided sessions for the primary pupils including leading their warm up, focusing on skill development and organising small sided games.

During the hockey tournament the leaders umpired games and were responsible for the organisation of their allocated primary school.

The festival was staged on the school's artificial pitch and saw eight primary schools compete against each other to take the top prize.

Trefonen, Morda, Whittington, Woodside, Bryn Offa, Gobowen and Ellesmere primary schools took part by entering one team each while Holy Trinity Primary School entered two teams.

More than 90 primary school students attended the event with pupils ranging from year three to year six. Matches were played across the three hockey pitches, with the winners from each heat coming together in an inter-schools playoff for the trophy.

Woodside, Trefonen and both Holy Trinity teams were awarded certificates as heat winners, with Trefonen crowned trophy winners after concluding matches against Bryn Offa and Ellesmere Primary School.

Sian Scott, PE teacher at The Marches said: "A big thank you to the hockey leaders, Oswestry Hockey Club and the primary schools for their participation and effort.

"The day went really well and the standard of hockey for their age groups is outstanding."

Cefn stay top after away victory

IT was a case of as you were in the Malcolm Lewis Developments Oswestry and District Snooker League after the latest matches.

Leaders Cefn travelled to Glyn Ceiriog A and recorded a 3 – 2 win. Damian Monk, Steven Daniels and Matthew Roberts sent them into a 3 – 0 lead but they were pegged back by Ali Davies and Ian Morris defeating Mark Gibbins and Martin Evans.

Second placed Ellesmere fared no better at home to Ex Servicemens D. Michael Dubicki (67 break) Mike Dorey (49 Break) and Bobby Dubicki all won for the home side and Alex Huxley and Scott Brayne for the visitors to keep the score respectable.

Third placed Ex Serv C bt Rhos Snooker Club 3 -2 but no card has been received.

Ex Serv A defeated their own E side by the odd frame with wins from Ian Jones (35 break), Martin Metcalfe and Johnny Edwards (41 break). Paul Seliaerts (38 break) and Mike Wiliams on the mark for the E Team.

In Division 2 while the leaders Criftins had a free week it an opportunity for Morda to eat into their lead and they duly obliged with a 4 – 1 away win at Four Crosses with Paul Sockett, Dave Hughes, Simon Wilson and Adrian Jones all on the score sheet.

Ifton also kept up the pressure with a 3 – 2 win over Flexsys B.

Elsewhere Ex Servicemens B won 3 - 2 against Llanrhaedr A with wins from Geoff Davies Tom Hughes and Bill Hartley.

Llanrhaedr B lost 2 -3 at home to Glyn Ceiriog B.

Tristan Owen (24 break) and Ed Layland for Llanrhaedr and P Davis Ian Richardson and Paul Jones for the visiting team.

Ellesmere B recorded their first win of the season away at Llangynog.

Pete Barker had given the home side the lead but Ellesmere responded with wins from Kevin Millington, John Williams and Daniel Gorton before Stuart Parnell took the last frame to end the match 2 – 3.

Placings

Welshpool Dominoes

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	A
Social Club A	10	8	2	49	21
Waterloo	10	6	4	40	30
Compasses	9	6	3	39	24
Pinewood C	9	7	2	39	24
Celts	9	5	4	36	27
Pinewood A	9	6	3	36	27
Pinewood Dragons	9	5	4	35	28
G/Dragon Butt B	9	4	5	28	35
Sun Inn	9	3	6	28	35
Cock P/A	9	3	6	26	37
Bowling Club	10	3	7	24	46
G/Dragon Butt A	9	2	7	23	40
Powis Arms P/Q	9	2	7	17	46

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	F	A
Cock A	10	9	1	54	16
Railway	10	8	2	49	21
Welshpool	10	7	3	44	26
Grapes	10	7	3	40	30
Kings Head	10	6	4	39	31
Westwood Wand	10	5	5	35	35
Talbot	10	5	5	34	36
Horseshoe	10	5	5	32	36
The Real Railway	10	4	6	31	39
Muriels Bunch	10	4	6	30	38
Breidden	10	3	7	29	41
Angel	10	4	6	28	42
RAF Boys	10	3	7	26	44
Wellington	10	0	10	17	53

Oswestry & District Snooker League

SNOOKER DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Cefn RBL	7	7	0	28	7	28
Ellesmere A	6	5	1	22	8	22
Glyn Cerriog A	8	3	5	18	22	18
Ex Serv C	6	4	2	17	13	17
Flexsys A	6	3	3	16	14	16
Ex Serv A	7	4	3	15	20	15
Ex Serv E	7	2	5	14	21	14
Llan Rafa A	5	3	2	12	13	12
Corwen	6	2	4	12	18	12
Rhos Snooker Club	6	1	5	12	18	12
Ex Serv D	6	1	5	9	21	9

SNOOKER DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Criftins	6	6	0	24	6	24
Morda	6	6	0	23	7	23
Ifton	7	5	2	22	13	22
Llanrhaeadr B	6	4	2	20	10	20
Four Crosses	6	5	1	18	12	18
Glyn Cerriog B	6	3	3	15	15	15
Ex Serv B	7	3	4	13	22	13
Llanrhaeadr A	7	1	6	12	23	12
Ellesmere B	6	1	5	10	20	10
Llangynog	7	1	6	9	26	9
Flexys B	6	0	6	9	21	9

BILLIARDS

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Glyn Cerriog	5	3	2	10	5	13
Morda A	5	3	1	9	6	12
Morda B	5	3	2	8	7	11
ExServicemen's	5	2	3	8	7	10
Rhos	5	2	2	7	8	10
Ellesmere A	5	2	3	6	9	8
Ellesmere B	5	2	3	6	9	8
Llanrhaedr	5	2	3	6	9	8

Mercian Regional Football League

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Church Stretton	15	8	3	28	25	28
FC Hodnet	13	7	4	22	13	23
Shifnal United 97	14	7	5	26	19	23
Morda United	11	6	2	24	13	21
Oakengates Ath	14	6	6	31	25	20
AFC Ludlow	8	6	1	21	11	19
Ketley Bank Utd	14	6	7	21	28	19
Alscott	12	5	5	29	24	17
Telford Juniors	10	4	3	16	14	15
W'ington Ams Res	13	4	7	18	26	14
W'church Alp Res	11	2	6	18	25	9
Weston Rhyn	13	2	9	12	26	8
Dawley Town	8	1	6	4	21	4

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Ketley Town	15	14	1	79	21	42
Prees FC	14	11	3	60	25	33
Madeley Sports	14	10	3	48	15	31
Rock Rovers FC	13	9	1	59	23	30
Oswestry Lions	13	9	2	40	24	29
Bishops Castle T	14	8	3	50	27	27
Wroxeter Rovers	12	6	5	40	27	19
Brown Clee	11	6	2	31	32	19
Oswestry BC	13	5	6	26	25	17
Clee Hill	11	3	7	25	40	10
Morda Utd Res	13	3	9	22	55	10
Hopesgate United	13	3	10	29	56	9
Meole Brace	14	2	11	20	57	7
Shawbury Utd Res	15	2	13	11	66	6
Wrock Wood Jun	12	1	11	18	65	3

Roche North Shropshire Sunday League

Black Lion 3, Oswestry Bell 7; Malpas 3, Cross Foxes 3; Dudleston 1, The Keys 3; Ironworks 1, Oak Inn 2; The Plough 0, Athletico Market 4.

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Cross Foxes	10	6	3	1	38	21
Oswestry Bell	7	6	1	0	20	19
The Keys	10	6	1	3	13	19
Athletico Market	9	5	2	2	11	17
Malpas	9	5	1	3	5	16
The Oak	9	5	0	4	-4	15
Dudleston Heath	8	3	0	5	17	9
Black Lion Colts	9	2	1	6	-11	7
Ironworks	10	2	1	7	-39	7
The Plough	9	0	0	9	-46	0

Shropshire Netball

OSWESTRY LEAGUE

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
OEPF	6	5	1	200	93	26
DPH	5	5	0	192	60	25
Way A Head	5	4	1	130	76	21
Penybont	4	4	0	139	55	20
Moreton Hall	6	2	3	84	144	14
Slaters	5	2	3	117	131	13
Dee Valley	5	1	3	85	105	12
TAR	4	2	2	80	86	11
Ninjas	5	1	4	65	143	7
Dragons	6	0	4	47	139	7
Tanat	5	0	5	48	155	0

SPORT

Oswestry hit back after early scare

OSWESTRY survived an early scare to cement their position in the top half of the South Lancs Cheshire Two with a 26-7 win at table propping Buxton.

The Eagles found themselves trailing to a try following the opening exchanges as their Derbyshire hosts showed plenty of spirit despite their lowly league position.

Having found themselves breached early on, the visitors contained their opponents for the remainder of the encounter, hitting them repeatedly on the counter attack to emerge convincing winners in a good all round team performance.

After a two hour journey, Oswestry found themselves pushed back for 20 yards via a rolling maul in the opening raid from which Buxton moved the ball sweetly across the line to open the scoring with a converted try.

Another 10 minutes of home pressure was broken up with an Ivor Hughes interception and a neat pass inside to Tom Treasure who ran 70 yards to score a terrific try despite being under pressure from three defender, Chris Crutchley converting.

Despite being down to 14 men, with a yellow card for team persistent infringes, a neat move in midfield with three quick passes opened the home defence allowing Gareth Hughes to break free and sprint 20 yards before feeding the supporting Andy Merritt to score.

Crutchley then stepped up and converted the try.

Although they were guilty of a string of handling errors, Oswestry were good value for 14-7 lead at half-time as they began to get the measure of their opponents.

Buxton were the more dominant team after the break, but a well organised visiting defence meant their raids were well contained. And the visitors went further ahead when, following a home scrum inside the Oswestry half, Craig Howell, who had just come on as flanker, stole the ball and out sprinted the defence for 60 yards and hugged the left touchline to score an outstanding try.

Chris Crutchley added the difficult conversion.

Oswestry were now in control and too strong for the home side and went close to increasing their lead when, from a scrum on home 22 scrum half.

Crutchley picked up ran wide but touched down short of the line.

The game, however, was secured from an Oswestry lineout when a set move sent Andy Smith running down the wing and Rich Owen scored from the second phase.

AFTER their abject performance in the cup the previous week, Oswestry II got back to winning ways in the North Wales League division three (south) with a 17-5 home success against Winnington park II.

The whole team stepped up to the mark this week illustrated at scrum time when the Eagles pack decimated the opposition.

Oswestry took the lead with a penalty from Luca Owen-Youens and, after a spell of pressure, grabbed an all important converted try as Jake Richards sniped round the back of a ruck near the Winnington line to score.

The Eagles maintained pressure on the Winnington line for the rest of the half, Sam Schafer leading the charge with some incisive running in the centres, ably supported by Will Groombridge playing just his second game for the club.

Oswestry suffered a blow with both Warren Howell and Andy McLaughlin forced off with injuries but still turned around for the second have with a 10 point lead. Despite finding themselves under pressure from the off at the beginning of the second half, the Eagles were in no mood to surrender their lead and strong tacking from Schafer, Ian Higgins and young prop John O'Connor helped keep Winnington off the board.

Time and again the Eagles seemed incapable of getting out of their own half and eventually gave up a try due to some good visiting pressure that spread the Oswestry defence allowing the opposition to score down the wing. From the resulting kick-off, the visitors finally relieved the pressure and spent some time in the opposition half.

Good defensive work high up the field led to some hurried Winnington minds enabling Adam Haythorn the chance at an outrageous interception that he managed to make stick. Winnington recovered temporarily but the ball was spread wide for Iwan Ellis who raced down the wing to score in the corner to seal the match.

Winning finish to league for pairs

BOTH of Oswestry Tennis Club's mixed autumn teams ended their league season with winning draws this week.

The first team had an away fixture at the other end of the county in Claverley.

With two of its regular members Paul Hampson and Josie Macrae available this week captain Kat Oakley called upon Gary Edwards from the second team to partner her as the second pair.

First pair Paul and Josie lost in straight sets 4-6, 4-6 against Claverly's first pair.

Oswestry's second pair of Kat and Gary had an easier time against Claverely's second pair taking the rubber in straight sets 6-1, 6-1.

In the reverse rubbers Josie and Paul took control against the second pair taking it 6- 2, 6-3 whilst Kat and Gary, although battling hard, eventually lost 5-7, 2-6 to the first pair.

With the final score at two rubbers each the result was determined on count backon games won with Oswestry victorious taking five points to Claverley's three.

Meanwhile the second team hosted Baschurch 1 at home. This was a family affair with Oswestry captain Gary Edwards opposing his sister, brother-in-law and nephew Angela, Robert and Harrison Gwilt. Adding to the tension was the fact that Harrison has recently been appointed Oswestry club coach.

Levelled

In the first round rubbers Gary, partnering Speth Cumpston, took the first set against Robert and his partner Fiona without the loss of a game but the second set proved to be more of a struggle before the Oswestry pairing took it 6-4.

The second pair of Keith Grice and Judy also got off to a flying start taking the first set 6-1. However Angela and Harrison levelled at 6-4 taking the rubber to a deciding third set tie break which the Baschurch pair won 1-0.

Keith and Judy played well to beat Robert and Fiona in straight sets 6-3, 6-4 but Gary and Speth, who were undefeated all season, had a real challenge against Angela and Harrison. Baschurch won the first set 6-4 but the Oswestry pair took the second set by 6-3 taking the rubber to a deciding third set tie-break. The Baschurch pair just edged the victory 1-0 (18-16).

With the scores level at two rubbers each Oswestry claimed the win.

Both of the Oswestry teams have done enough to stay in their respective groups next season but promotion for the second team could still be a possibility.

COBRA grind out victory as second half play fizzles out

COBRA backs get ready to launch an attack after the ball is won in the maul

COBRA players put pressure on the Colwyn Bay team during their victory

COBRA are just about hanging on to the coat tails of the leaders in the Welsh League division two (north) after grinding out a 21-15 victory against lowly Colwyn Bay.

Despite securing a seventh win of the season, the Meifod are now seven points adrift of high-flying Denbigh who underlined their title credentials with a 105-8 hammering of Llanidloes.

RUGBY by John Bridgwater

After starting well last week, COBRA lost their early momentum and were unable to add to their 21 points scored in the first half against a Bay side who looked far stronger than their basement position would suggest.

The Llanfair Caereinion side were soon seven points to the good with an excellent try that saw right wing Richard Jones run virtually the length of the pitch to score after the hosts had won a turnover ball in their own 22 and quickly spun the ball out.

Llew Williams added the conversion. However, Colwyn Bay, battling to ease their basement concerns, were back on terms with a converted try themselves with a good move seeing their left wing cross the line.

Tackle

Centre Iwan Vaughan then crashed over to restore the home lead with a second try following a good build-up, Williams again converting, before Bay reduced the deficit with a penalty.

A third try five minutes before half time appeared to put COBRA in charge with scrum half Alwyn Williams picking up a the back of the ruck before shrugging off a covering tackle and crossing the line with a darting run.

Fly half Llew Williams then added his third conversion.

COBRA players in their new Ist team kit sponsored by J.A.Bowen Castle Caereinion

But the hosts were unable to build on this platform in a stale second half and the only score came from Colwyn Bay with their second try five minutes from time.

However, COBRA never looked seriously under pressure despite only being one score clear of their visitors, but crucially failed to pick up a bonus point.

Without a game this weekend, they return to duty with a North Wales Cup clash, this time away to Colwyn Bay, the following Saturday (December 1). On December 8, they are away to Llangollen in the league and on December 15 play Bay for the third time in a month when the sides meet in the Swalec Bowl.

Lions roar back with six goals in victory

OSWESTRY Lions are back in business after shrugging off their cup setback with a convincing 6-1 home win over Hopesgate to stay in touching distance of the leading contenders in the Mercian Regional League division one.

After bowing out of the Shropshire Junior Cup at the hands of local rivals Oswestry Boys Club the week before, it was the perfect response from the Lions who netted three goals in each half from six different positions.

They are now unbeaten in their last eight league games, a run that has lifted them to fifth in the table, and bid to maintain that winning form in Saturday's tricky trip to Wroxeter.

Manager Nick Maguire was glad to welcome back the attacking options of Graham Dyke (after a hamstring injury) and Gary Windsor following his knee problem. His front line was also bolstered with Chris Bishop gaining international clearance.

Snatched

The Lions started the game very brightly with early chances falling to new signing Bishop and the returning Windsor, who were both looking fresh from a few weeks' rest.

But it was left back Joe Evans who found himself on the end of an Adam Jones cross to score a rare headed goal.

The second came from another defender after a quality Dylan Ellis corner put Hopegate's defenders under pressure and Matt Williams drove the ball into the roof of the net.

The third goal of the first half was a solo effort from Windsor.

After the interval, Hopesgate snatched a goal back but then their keeper spilled a Windsor shot and Dyke tapped in the rebound.

It was soon five with the goal of the game from Matt Evans. The scoring was completed when Bishop broke clear.

After their fine Shropshire Junior Cup win against local rivals Oswestry Lions, OSWESTRY BOYS CLUB were left kicking their heels last weekend as their clash at Clee Hill was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch following heavy overnight rain.

Welshpool down to third after loss to Rhos

WELSHPOOL slipped down to third spot in the Welsh League division two (north) after a 33-14 defeat at promotion rivals Rhos – their second loss of the season.

It was always going to be a stern test for Pool who were well beaten by their hosts in the North Wales Cup earlier in the season, but the visitors acquitted themselves well.

In fact they finished strongly, being camped on the home line, but would point to conceding a couple of tries either side of half time when being down to 14 men as a key moment of the game.

They are now level on points with Rhos, but trail their rivals on points difference, while Powys rivals Newtown are four points clear after their 60-12 romp at lowly Holyhead. Rhos, who are still unbeaten this season, started brightly in last weekend's clash, but Welshpool went ahead with a penalty from Daley Jones.

However, this only saw the hosts up the pressure in their best spell of the game and, after being met by some resolute defence, they eventually found a way through for the first of their five tries.

In fact, Rhos scored three touchdowns in the first period, but Welshpool were in the hunt at 12-6 down thanks to a second Jones penalty before having scrum half John Rees Jones sin binned.

Rhos, a big, physical side, took advantage to score another try to make their lead 19-6 at the interval and added another score early in the second period with the visitors still a man short.

The game was effectively wrapped up with a fifth touchdown but credit must go to the Maesydre men who showed plenty of spirit in the final quarter.

Return

With their hosts tiring, Welshpool looked the stronger late on reduced the arrears with a third penalty from Jones before centre Shay Bowles shrugged off a couple of tackles to cross the line for a deserved try.

Welshpool can take plenty of heart from their strong finish and certainly proved a stronger force than their last league outing at highly rated Rhos last season when shipping in 60 points.

They now have a two weeks break due to Wales' internationals, and return to duty with a home clash against Harlech on Saturday, December 8, as they bid to keep up the good work.

And, if they can put out a strong side each week, there is no reason why they can't maintain a promotion push in the second half of the season.

Meanwhile, fly half Rowan Meek bagged a hat-trick of tries as Newtown moved four points clear with a thumping 60-12 win at lowly Holyhead.

The league leaders collected 10 tries in all with flanker Paul Morgan also crossing twice.

Boys Club land home tie in cup

OSWESTRY BOYS Club have been drawn at home to Randlay in the second round of the Shropshire Junior Cup.

Morda United reserves also have home advantage against Bishop's Castle, while Trefonen head to Rock Rovers.

SPORT

Goalkeeper is Villagers hero after penalty save

KEEPER Jimmy Haynes pulled off a late penalty save as nine-man Llansantffraid Village edged out Welshpool Town 2-1 in an eventful Spar Mid Wales League division one clash at Treflan.

Victory sees the villagers consolidate seventh spot in the table while leaving Pool in the bottom three again despite their efforts.

Danny Weaver, Dale Lloyd and Iwan Matthews were all on target for the home team, who were to have goalscorer Weaver and Neil Prescott sent off.

Tom Reynolds and Craig Sweatman netted the replies for the visitors who were left to rue the late penalty miss as keeper Haynes became Llansantffraid's hero.

Struggling

WATERLOO ROVERS kept up the pressure on the leaders with a 2-1 home win over Aberaeron thanks to a long range strike from Dale Wolverson and Steve Hole getting the other.

FOUR CROSSES are top by one point despite being held to a 0-0 draw at BERRIEW, while surprise package Builth Wells are up to second courtesy of their 2-1 win at Aberystwyth University.

Llanidloes Town, fresh from their shock Welsh Cup win against Caersws, are looking good in third spot and underlined their credentials with a 9-1 walloping of struggling Dolgellau.

Tom Goodwin and Jamie Breese both scored twice for the Daffs who were 6-0 up at half time.

Richie Evans, Ryan Clemson, Rhys Jones, Karl Seliearts and Gareth Mansell also joined in the romp.

At the other end of the table, Carno eased their basement worries with a welcome 3-1 success at Newbridge but DYFFRYN BANW remain second from bottom after being edged out 2-1 at home to Tywyn Bryncrug, with Chris Davies netting getting Banw's reply.

Manager

RAY Jones, boss of Llansantffraid Village, has been named manager of the month for October in the Spar Mid Wales League division one.

It has proved an excellent month for the villagers who picked up 10 points out of a possible 12, with wins at Dyfryn Banw (7-1), home to Aberystwyth University (1-0) and 4-0 home to Berriew.

The only points dropped came in the 3-3 draw with Newbridge at the end of the month.

There were some surprise packages with Aberystwyth University's Matthew Perry the first division's player of the month.

In division two, Knighton's Stuart Jarvis was manager of the month while Kerry's Luke Mumford picked up the player of the month accolade.

On-loan defender Connell Rawlinson, centre, in the thick of the action for Newtown against GAP Connah's Quay.

Saints defender Rawlinson in loan move to rivals Newtown

CENTRAL defender Connell Rawlinson, who has struggled to cement his place in The New Saints' starting line-up this season, has joined Welsh Premier rivals Newtown on a loan deal until the end of the year.

And he was thrust right into the Robins' starting line-up for last Friday's 2-1 loss at GAP Connah's Quay, a defeat that kept the Mid Wales side hovering dangerously just above the basement zone.

"Considering he was thrown in at the last minute, Connell did well, settled in quickly and will be an asset for us," said Newtown boss Bernard McNally who played the defender on the left of the back three.

The 22-year-old former Flintshire Schoolboys representative and Chester City defender originally joined the TNS squad for the Champions League ties with Bohemians in 2010.

He was offered pro terms again in 2011/12 and won a Wales Under-23 semi-professional cap against Estonia in October 2011.

Action

After making 16 (+14) Welsh Premier appearances over two seasons, the 6ft 3ins defender again signed for the Saints this summer but has failed to make a league appearance so far, playing only in the Word Cup wins against Prestatyn Town, Bala Town and Airbus UK Broughton.

The Saints believe that Rawlinson's loan switch to Newtown until December 31 will help give the defender much needed pitch time after his lack of action.

United crash out of trophy after winner in extra time

LLANFAIR United lost their unbeaten record after bowing out of the FAW Trophy with a 3-2 extra time defeat at home to Llanberis Town in their fourth round tie.

There was little in the tie for most part, but Llanfair succumbed to an extra time winner even though the North Wales visitors were down to 10 men by that stage.

"It's very disappointing to go out, there was not much between the sides, but credit must go to them for making the long journey here and coming away with the win in what was a tough game," said Llanfair boss Rhys Stephens.

"We would really have loved to have gone further in this competition but at the end of the day it was not to be and the important thing is that we bounce back in the league which is our priority."

Llanberis had led 1-0 at half time but Llanfair were back on terms after the break through Steve Andrew who struck with 20 minutes remaining.

Waterlogged

The visitors restored their lead with five minutes to go but United showed their resolve when Rich Astley took the tie into extra time with an 88th minute reply.

Llanfair looked to have the edge when Llanberis had a player sent off at the end of normal time but they were downed by a stunning 25-yard strike in the extra period.

MONTGOMERY also made a fourth round exit when defeated 4-2 at Denbigh, while Chirk AAA lost by a similar score at Holywell.

With Llanfair without any league action, Llandrindod Wells took the chance to close the gap on the Spar Mid Wales League division one leaders to three points with a 2-1 home win against Presteigne.

KERRY consolidated third spot after their 2-1 home verdict against Rhosgoch while LLANFYLLIN'S trip to Hay St Mary's was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

ABERMULE are fourth from bottom after going down 3-1 at Aberdyfi while Knighton Town drew 1-1 at home to Bont in the day's other game.

TNS show no mercy as they put six past poor Llanelli

THE NEW Saints heaped more misery on crisis club Llanelli as they strolled to a six-goal victory at Stebonheath Park to return to the top of the Welsh Premier on goal difference.

Llanelli had gone into the encounter facing a winding up order over an unpaid tax bill and possible eviction from their ground due to unpaid rent.

They had also parted company with manager Andy Legg to add to the problems.

But the Saints showed no sentiment with three goals in each half, and the emphatic win now leaves one time big guns Llanelli lying in the bottom two.

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

TNS, by contrast, have now returned to the top of the table on goal difference from Bangor City who had been top for a while after their 2-0 home success over Airbus UK the night before.

Saints director of football Craig Harrison was happy with the professional approach from his players, and praised the focus of his side after all the talk in the week had surrounded Llanelli's off field plight.

"Llanelli's problems were well documented, but it was a potential banana skin for us as they are still a very strong team with lots of quality and experience, and had nothing to lose," he said.

"We went about the game very professionally and did not take anything for granted. Our game plan was to get some early goals which we did, so it was good to score six goals and keep a clean sheet.

"Any win's a good win, and we'll just look to build on it."

There was only going to be one winner after TNS took the lead on eight minutes through Chris Jones, his first goal for the club after joining last summer, and Alex Darlington doubled the advantage just three minutes later.

Darlington then made it 3-0 five minutes before the break with his ninth goal of the season as the defending champions ruled the roost against their troubled hosts.

Mike Wilde then got on the act with a fourth midway through the second half, before Llanelli's day went from bad to worse with midfielder Jason Bowen sent off for his second booking on 73 minutes.

The Saints capitalised on their one man advantage to score twice more, Jones netting his second goal of the game on 78 minutes and Wilde completing the rout with his second three minutes later.

Llanelli gave it a good go in the second half with visiting keeper Paul Harrison pulling off a couple of excellent saves.

Dismissal

But TNS had enough chances to have added to their tally with subs Greg Draper and Jason Lampkin all going close, Lampkin also hit the post while a couple of other efforts were cleared off the line.

Forward Matty Williams came on as a substitute five minutes from time, his first league appearance in 11 months for the Oswestry side following his knee surgery.

Llanelli, who conceded six goals for the second time in a week, suffered their seventh dismissal of the season when Bowen was red-carded, leaving new boss Bob Jeffrey with plenty to ponder.

Super Morda claim another scalp

Morda's Tom Coulson goes close with a second half header in the 2-0 victory over Hodnet Town

RESOLUTE Morda United have confirmed their title winning potential by defeating the top two teams in the Mercian Regional League premier division in successive weeks.

After hammering leaders Church Stretton 5-1 the previous Saturday, Craig Rogers's men took a little longer to overcome the resistance of second-placed Hodnet, but ended up comfortable 2-0 winners through a goal in each half from Gary Meredith and Dan Graham.

Facing the strong sun, Morda struggled with their passing on a heavy pitch, with Kevin McGarvey shooting wide while two Gareth Lewis crosses failed to reach a Morda striker in some of their best openings.

Play was fairly even with no real effort on target until the half hour when Hodnet failed to clear a McGarvey free kick and the alert Meredith was on hand to tap home.

Morda goalscorers Dan Graham and Gary Meredith

This appeared to give Morda confidence and Dean Graham went close after good work by Gareth Lewis, while at the other end Jason Williams thwarted Scott Holiday with a superbly timed tackle leaving Morda one up at the interval.

The Weston Road men doubled their advantage on the hour when Kevin McGarvey won the ball in midfield and fed Dan Graham who found the net despite the attention of a defender and the Hodnet keeper.

From then on Morda took over, looking solid in defence while starting to win the bulk of the ball in midfield.

Gareth Lewis began to cause problems with several good breaks on the right, while Tom Coulson went close with a header.

Shaheen Miah then fired just over from a free kick and Hodnet defender Nick Capper cleared off the line following amelee.

Despite this Morda pressure there were no further goals but the three points took them to fourth in the table, seven points behind the leaders but with four games in hand.

Rogers and his team will have another tough challenge on Saturday when they travel to face rapidly improving Ketley Bank United who last weekend secured a 3-2 win away at third-placed Shifnal United 97

Morda reserves, meanwhile, completed a successful weekend for the club with a 3-0 victory away at Wrockwardine Wood Juniors in division one.

And they will have an opportunity to confirm their improved form on Saturday when they entertain mid-table Brown Clee at Weston Road (2pm).

St Martins fail to stop title charge

ST MARTINS failed to halt the Bilston bandwagon as they slipped to a 5-2 home defeat to the unbeaten title chasers in the West Midlands League division one.

"They were very professional, they'll win the league without a doubt," admitted Saints boss Derek Stokes whose side had been on terms early in the second half before the visitors surged ahead.

After Bilston had taken a early lead, home keeper Carl Edwards pulled off several fine saves to keep his side in the hunt and the Saints were back on terms after the break through Tom Mackrell.

However, they conceded a second goal following a defensive mid-up and the visitors went 4-1 up before Carl Bailey pulled another back. However, the title favourites had the last word with a fifth goal.

St Martins now face a trip to mid-table rivals Trysull on Saturday as they bid to push closer towards safety.

Evans hits two as Llangedwyn march into third round of cup

A BRACE from James Evans helped Llangedwyn progress in the Robins Newtown League Cup with a 5-1 second round passage at Llanymynech.

As well as Evans' double, Nick Jones, James Wigley and Josh Edwards also found the net, while Mark Humphreys responded from the penalty spot.

Only two games were played in the JT Hughes Montgomeryshire League, with mid-table MEIFOD drawing 1-1 at LLANFECHAIN in the Honda division one.

Hayden Langford was on the mark for Meifod, with Llion Jones replying for the visitors. WATERLOO COLTS climbed clear of the basement stragglers in the Mistubishi division two with a 2-1 home verdict against second placed Newtown Wanderers courtesy of goals from Nick Roberts and Ryan Ellis, while Tom Smith was on the mark at the other end.

While their first team was heavily beaten, LLANRHAEADR reserves gave the club something to cheer when reaching the third round of the Emrys Morgan Cup with a 2-1 victory over local rivals Llansantffraid reserves.

Waterloo reserves went over 4-3 at Tregaron Turfs while elsewhere Caersws reserves were 2-0 winners at Bargoed Rangers and Llandrindod Wells were beaten 3-2 at Felinfach.

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Ketley will give Morda a big test

LOOKING to make up more ground on the Mercian Regional League Premier Division leaders, Morda United face a tricky excursion to improving Ketley Bank on Saturday.

The Weston Road men, however, can make the journey in good spirits after reeling off back-to-back league wins, with their 5-1 hammering of leaders Church Stretton followed by a 2-0 home win against FC Hodnet last weekend.

They have not lost since September 22, with three wins and three draws in their last six league outings, while they have also won two cup games in that time.

The recent revival has lifted them to fourth in the table, seven points off top spot and manager Craig Rogers looks to maintain the momentum knowing that wins in the games in hand will put his side "there or thereabouts".

He added: "Ketley Bank will be a tough game but we can go there on good form, full of confidence and looking to keep our run going.

"I'd describe the Hodnet performance as professional and disciplined and we managed to nick a couple of goals on a difficult pitch."

Boss backs revival for Welshpool

MANAGER Dave Jones is confident his Welshpool Town side are heading in the right direction despite missing out on more points in controversial fashion.

The Lilywhites remain in the lower reaches of the Spar Mid Wales League division one table after their 3-2 loss at Llansantffraid Village, but Jones could not believe his side returned empty handed.

They had what appeared a perfectly good goal disallowed late on after the ball was ruled not to have crossed the line, while the visitors were also on the wrong end of several other decisions.

"Even Llansantffraid said the ball was over the line," said Jones.

"If we keep up that sort of performance we will certainly win more games than we'll lose.

"We've got no game this weekend, next we are at home to Aberaeron the following Saturday.

"Hopefully our luck will turn."

Rhyn suffer after keeper is sent off

WESTON Rhyn slipped into the bottom two of the Mercian Regional League Premier Division after their 1-1 home draw with Wellington Amateur reserves.

Rhyn's cause was not helped by fellow strugglers Whitchurch Alport's surprise victory over Oakengates, but they were again left to reflect on two more points dropped themselves.

They were hit on 20 minutes when keeper Paul Morris handled a back pass outside the box and was sent off.

Despite beinga man short, they went ahead on 70 minutes with a penalty from Mike Jones. However, Wellington bagged an equaliser a few minutes from time.

TNS looking to keep up the pressure

HEAD coach Carl Darlington believes The New Saints could hardly be in any better shape as they bid to keep up the pressure at the top of the Welsh Premier in Saturday's home clash with lowly Carmarthen Town (2.30pm).

After moving top on goal difference following last week's 6-0 romp at troubled Llanelli, the defending champions now have another of the league's strugglers in their sights.

Past meetings between the sides at Park Hall suggest TNS are firm favourites with Carmarthen losing their previous four visits, conceding now fewer than 21 goals and scoring none.

Darlington, however, believes the Saints cannot treat their visitors lightly, with the West Walians having pulled off some improved results of late. But he accepts the Oswestry men could hardly be more confident after themselves netting 11 goals in their last two outings, although fully aware they must maintain the same level of focus.

"Confidence is sky high after netting 11 goals in our last two games, five against Airbus in the league cup and six against Llanelli last Saturday," he said.

"We're now top again, albeit on goal difference, and we're also in our first final (the league cup in January, also against Carmarthen), so everything is looking good at the moment. But the challenge now is to keep that form going.

"We also know that last week's 6-0 win against Llanelli will mean nothing if we don't follow it up with another win against Carmarthen who will pose a different set of problems."

Darlington was delighted that signing Chris Jones scored his first goals for the club last week. "He really deserved his two goals, while I was also happy that Mike Wilde also scored twice after all the work he puts in."

After suffering a couple of defeats in the last month, Darlington admitted it was a job well done at Llanelli last Saturday. "We had three objectives last week: to keep a clean sheet, to create chances and to be more ruthless, and we achieved all three," he said.

Meanwhile, the club are set to remain at their Stebonheath Park base after paying the local council some of its outstanding rent.

Rovers are primed for tough clash

WATERLOO Rovers are raring to go on Saturday as they bid to dim another of the leading lights in the Spar Mid Wales League division one.

Buoyed by their fine 2-1 win over fourth placed Aberaeron last week, Rovers now set their sights on the team lying second in the table, Builth Wells.

"We can go there with morale high after being very happy with last week's win," said manager Dale Roberts.

"We went in at half time 1-0 down despite looking the better team, but came out in the second half with a pleasing determination to turn the game around.

"I was very pleased with the second half performance in particular.

"Despite going down to 10 men with 20 minutes left when Ian Macleod was sent off for a two footed challenge, the lads were able to continue to press and create chances and perhaps we could have won by more."

BIKE PAIR STORM TO ASIAN RACE GLORY

TWO mountain bike riders from GT FACTORY Racing, based near Oswestry, have finished in the top two places in the 2012 Asia Pacific Downhill Challenge in Indonesia.

Dan Atherton was first and Marc Beaumont second in Asia's top downhill race which was held in Cikole, West Java, as part of the country's sixth annual bicycle day.

The result was particuarly good as the race took place in the wettest conditions either rider had ever faced.

by Tony Reynolds

Dan's 2012 season has focused on the new discipline of Enduro, culminating in a win at Superenduro Pro 6 at Finale Ligure, the climax of the Enduro season.

His Asia Pacific victory has particularly pleased the team as it represents his first downhill podium since his catastrophic neck injury in 2010.

Marc said:"Dan rode really good.

" I'm so glad that we got the chance to visit Indonesia, I've been blown away by how intense and enthusiastic the fans are over there, they are so knowledgeable about our sport."

Dan, who lives in Llanrhaeadr, agreed and said:" The support has been amazing. It's been great to have this opportunity to give something back to Shimano who've been a solid support to Atherton Racing for years."

Indonesia's tropical climate brought intense rainstorms that disrupted practice and left the track extraordinarily slick.

Both riders were happy with their seeding runs which left Dan in 1st place and Marc in 3rd with Mitch Ropelato in 2nd.

"I would say that is some of the most slippery dirt I have ever ridden on" said Marc, who lives in Craven Arms.

Race day brought more hard rain, which continued throughout the whole event.

Both riders admitted that the extreme conditions left them dreading the race but their wealth of race experience and well-known technical skills stood them in good stead.

Dan said:"I knew that Marc was going strong so I just tried to smash the corners as hard as I dared – after the first two corners it started to feel like fun!"

Marc added: "The race couldn't have gone better really – I had a few small goggle issues and a few small mistakes but those were to be expected given the conditions.

"I'm so pumped that GT Factory racing came away with the 1, 2."

The riders are now in Bali for having a few days well-earned rest.It is then back to the Atherton HQ at Llanrhaeadr and the rest of their winter training.

Oswestry facing a tough away match

OSWESTRY face a challenging task when they visit Ormskirk on Saturday looking to consolidate their position in the upper half of rugby's South Lancs Cheshire Two.

Buoyed by back-to-back wins, including last week's 26-7 success at basement side Buxton, the Eagles could face a stern trip this weekend against an Ormskirk side who will prove a tough nut to crack on home soil.

Oswestry are healthily placed in seventh spot, one position below their West Lancashire rivals who have also played one game fewer.

The Eagles second team, meanwhile, are at home to Burnage as they look to push into the top half of the table after being boosted by last week's 17-5 win over Winnington Park.

Their recent form has been mixed with three wins and two defeats in their last five outings.

COBRA grind out another victory

A COBRA player launches an attack during their hard fought 21-15 victory at home over lowly Colwyn Bay. The win leaves COBRA seven points adrift of league leaders Denbigh. Full report and more pictures on Page 46

Tough tie for Four Crosses

AFTER their 6-2 win against Abermule, Four Crosses have been drawn against Montgomery in the MP Foulkes Montgomeryshire Cup quarter-finals.

A treble from Ben Oakley saw Crosses through along with Paul Hughes (2) and Gareth Jones while Tom Andrew and Matt Jones responded.

Dyffryn Banw, who beat Kerry 2-0, will face Caersws in the last eight. Full draw: Llansantffraid Village v Llanfair Utd, Llanfechain v Guilsfield, Four Crosses v Montgomery, Dyffryn Banw v Caersws.

Team looks to hit form

AFTER their 11-1 mauling at Rhyl, Llanrhaeadr bid to turn things around in Saturday's home clash with Conwy Borough.

The defeat kept the villagers in the bottom three of the Cymru Alliance but they are still only four points away from 10th place.

Keeper Connor Lee is set to return after missing the disastrous Rhyl trip due to work.

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Published by the Oswestry & Border Chronicle , Salop Road, Oswestry and printed by Shropshire Newspapers Ltd, Telford. Registered at the PO as a newspaper. Price when sold 45p.

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